

Document Pack



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WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2016

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN AT 10:00AM ON THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2016**, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Mark James

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

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E-Mail:	mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ref:	AD016-001

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND
3 ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 6 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | C.A. Campbell |
| 2. | Councillor | J.M. Charles |
| 3. | Councillor | W.G. Hopkins |
| 4. | Councillor | P. Hughes Griffiths |
| 5. | Councillor | M.J.A. Lewis |
| 6. | Councillor | J.E. Williams (Chair) |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | I.W. Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | D.W.H. Richards |
| 3. | Councillor | T. Theophilus |

LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair) |
| 2. | Councillor | J.D. James |
| 3. | Councillor | P.E.M. Jones |
| 4. | Councillor | J. Williams |

NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Canon B. Witt | Church in Wales Representative |

ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

Term of office expires on the 31/03/2018

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. E. Heyes | Area 3 – Llanelli |
| 2. | Mrs. K. Hill | Area 1 – Dinefwr |
| 3. | Mrs. A. Pickles | Area 2 – Carmarthen |

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
5. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 5 - 6
6. MID & WEST WALES ADOPTION SERVICE 7 - 28
7. YOUTH SERVICES UPDATE REPORT 29 - 60
8. CORPORATE PARENTING & SAFEGUARDING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 61 - 84
9. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 85 - 108
10. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT 109 - 110

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

Forthcoming items for next meeting – Monday 23rd May 2016 (2:30pm)

** Please note that the following agenda items are subject to change as the Committee's Forward Work Programme for the 2016/17 municipal year is still being developed.*

Discussion Topic	Background
CCC Draft Play Sufficiency Assessment	This item will provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment as part of the consultation in relation to the Council's second Play Sufficiency Assessment.
E&C Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16	In accordance with Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution, each scrutiny committee must "prepare an annual report giving an account of its activities over the previous year." This report will provide members with an overview of the Committee's work during the 2015/16 municipal year.
E&C Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2016/17	The County Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to develop and publish annual forward work programmes that identify issues and reports to be considered during the course of the municipal year. This report will enable the Committee to confirm its Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.

Members are also asked to note that a joint meeting with the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee has been arranged for the 23rd May 2016 at 2:00pm in order for members of both Committees to consider the Annual Report of Director of Social Services 2015/16. The Committee's meeting referred to above will be held following the conclusion of the joint meeting.

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

Mid & West Wales Adoption Service

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- That the Committee considers and comments on the Mid & West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) update.

Reasons:

- To provide the Committee with an update on the Service since it was established in April 2014.
- In order for members of the Committee to exercise their scrutiny role.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Stefan Smith</p> <p>Report Author: Frances Lewis</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Children's Services</p> <p>Service Manager (Children's Services)</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246530 sjsmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01269 598284 flewis@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

Mid & West Wales Adoption Service

Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys came together to form Mid and West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) in April 2014. Carmarthenshire is the lead authority.

It is part of the National Adoption Service (NAS), which is made up of a small central team and the 5 regional collaboratives, namely:

- MWAS
- South East Wales Adoption Service (SEWAS)
- North Wales
- Western Bay (Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea)
- Vale, Valleys & Cardiff (VVC)

The National Adoption Service was launched formally in November 2014.

This update includes the Service's progress to date and priorities for 2016.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children's Services

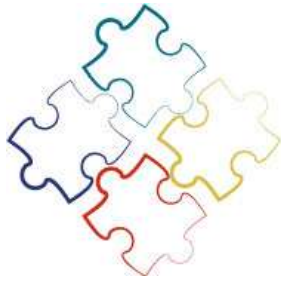
- 1. Local Member(s) – N/A**
- 2. Community / Town Council – N/A**
- 3. Relevant Partners – N/A**
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A**

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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Mabwysiadu
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Adoption
Mid & West Wales

Update for Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee on 14.4.16

Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys came together to form Mid and West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) in April 2014. Carmarthenshire is the lead authority. It is part of the National Adoption Service (NAS), which is made up of a small central team and the 5 regional collaboratives: MWAS, SEWAS, North Wales, Western Bay and VVC. NAS was launched formally in November 2014.

Progress since November 2014

Regionally

- Adoption panel in Carmarthen became paperless, which is more efficient and reduces administration costs. The success of using iPads and sharing documentation electronically will now be extended to the adoption panel that meets in Brecon
- MWAS has updated the Adoption Support Policy to create a consistent approach across the region.
- A process of consultations with a psychologist to inform the child's adoption support plan is being piloted in Carmarthenshire. If the evaluation finds this is effective the process will be extended across the region
- The training programme has been rationalised to reduce duplication and increase opportunities for adopters and others to access a wide range of training. This has included collaborating with the University of Wales Trinity St David to produce some short films that will be used for training. Birth parents and adoptive parents have also contributed to training events.
- MWAS management committee includes representatives from Health, the voluntary sector and Education
- Grant funding has been obtained to provide training to 4 parenting workers from each of the 4 local authorities, a total of 16, to enable them to deliver attachment based training
- An increase in the number of birth parents meeting with adopters prior to placement as well as Child Appreciation Days are ways to assist children to make the transition to adoptive placements more successfully

Nationally

- Development and embedding of performance indicators- sharing of good practice between regions as well as driving the priorities such as reducing the delay in finding suitable placements for children with a plan for adoption

- Annual work plan and priorities for the work of the sub groups; media and marketing; adoption support; common policies and procedures; and performance.
- Stakeholder engagement- NAS is facilitating a programme of events to consult with a variety of stakeholders
- NAS took over responsibility for the Wales Adoption Register from BAAF
- Commissioning projects in respect of adoption allowances and adoption support services.
- Learning from best practice and research will be possible going forward due to the strong relationship that has been established with Cardiff University through both CASCADE (the social sciences research centre) and the Adoption Cohort Study.

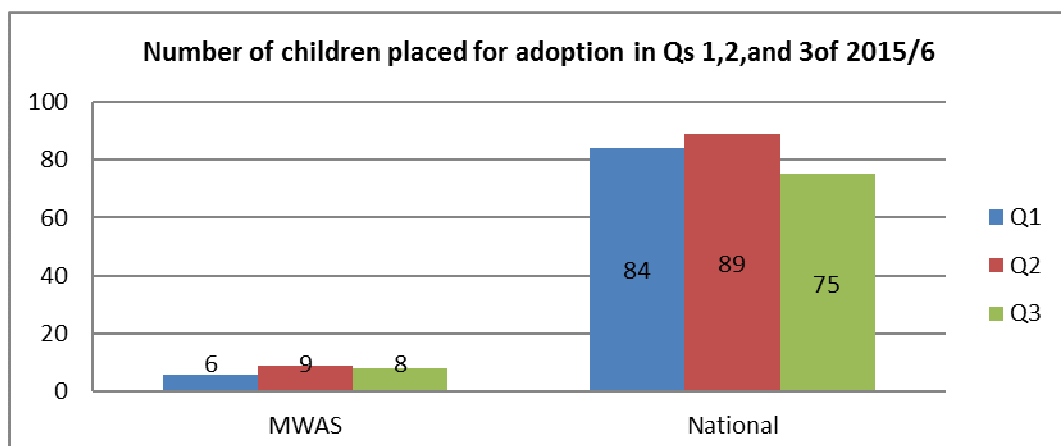
Priorities for 2016

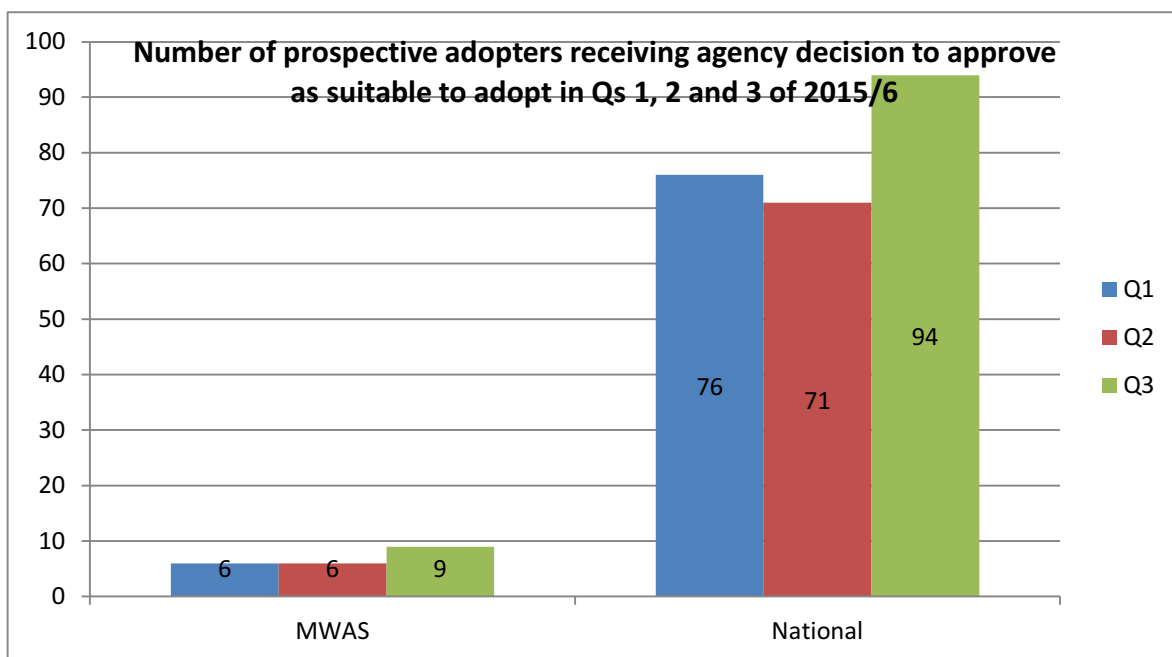
Regionally

- Provide suitable adoptive placements to avoid delay for children
- Improve outcomes for adopted children by providing appropriate support. This includes improving the quality of life journey work
- Maintain effective working relationships with childcare teams to assist with planning services and better identify the types of adoptive placements that will be needed
- Increase consistency of practice across the region, sharing good practice.

Nationally

- Reduce delay for children
- Increase consistency of practice
- Develop adoption support services
- Increase stakeholder engagement
- Build on partnership working with the voluntary adoption agencies
- Integrate messages from research into practice and policy
- Ensure all children have life journey work of an acceptable standard when they are placed for adoption





Positives of being part of a national adoption service

- Increased pool of adopters within the region provides greater choice and opportunities for matching
- Sharing of knowledge and good practice- for example Powys' work to achieve kite mark for participation of young people
- More choice of training events for adopters
- Performance measures provide basis for analysing performance and exploring ways of improving practice and processes
- NAS has raised profile of adoption
- Increased consistency nationally in terms of adoption support and adoption assessment processes
- Reduction in duplication

Frances Lewis, Service Manager.

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Gwasanaeth
Mabwysiadu
Cenedlaethol

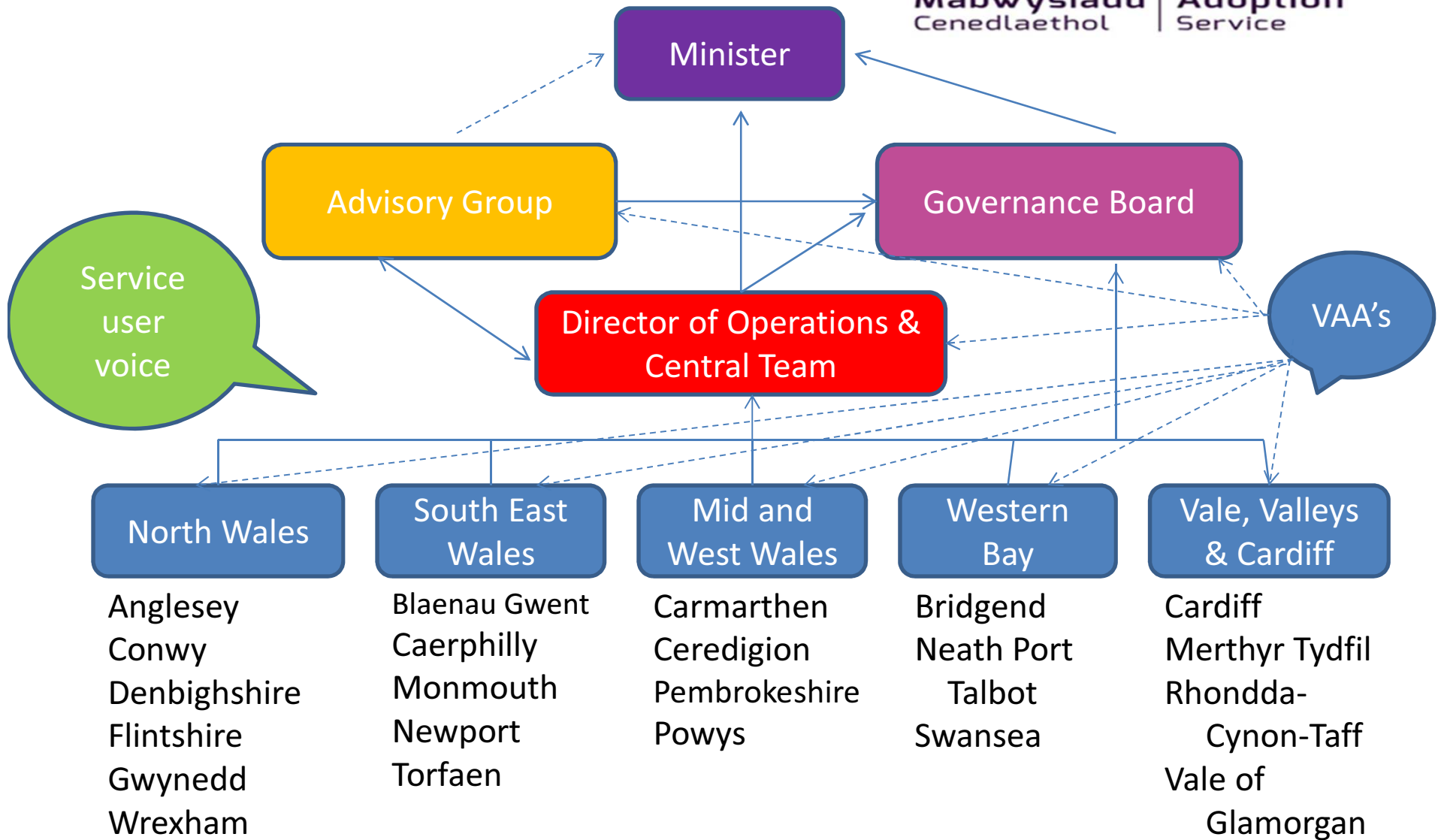
National
Adoption
Service

Achieving More Together
/ Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd

**Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros y Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol,
Rhagfyr 2012 / Deputy Minister for Social
Services December 2012**



- “..... Mynd i’r afael â’r pryderon cyfredol, heb aberthu’r un o gryfderau cydnabyddedig y system bresennol – hynny yw, cyflawni newid heb achosi dirywiad.”
- “.....address current concerns without losing the undeniable strengths of the existing system – achieving change without detriment.”



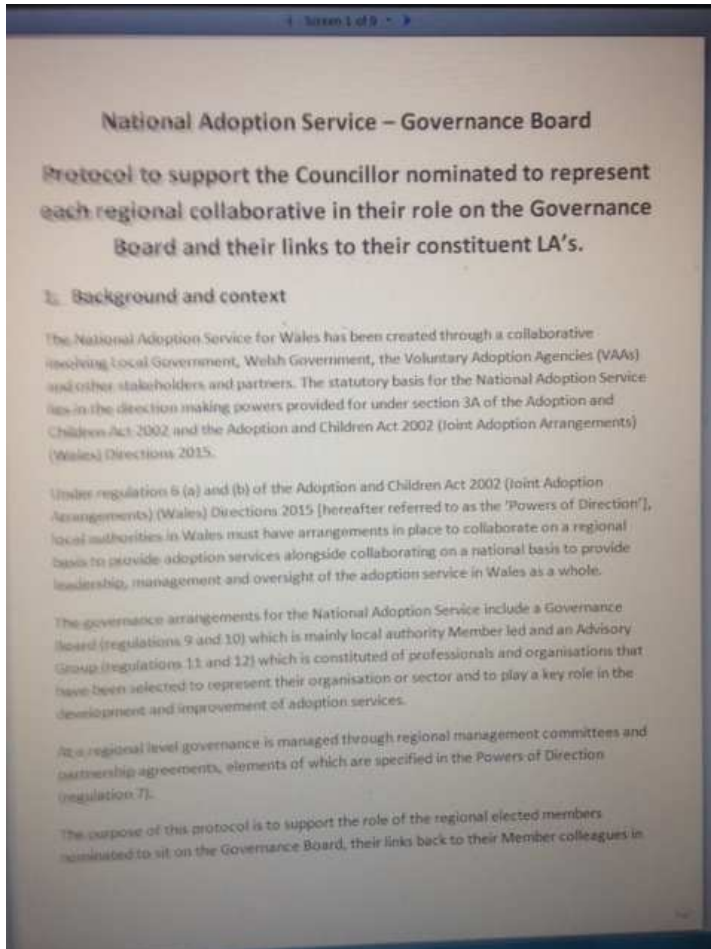
Llywodraethu/Governance



- **Bwrdd Llywodraethu**
 - Aelod o bob Rhanbarthol
 - Rhanddeiliaid allweddol
- **Grŵp Cyngori – cadeirydd annibynnol**
 - Mewnbyn a throsolwg proffesiynol
 - All, AMG a rhanddeiliaid allweddol
- **Prosiectau Cydweithio Rhanbarthol**
 - Byrddau partneriaeth / Cytundebau Cyfreithiol
 - Rhanbarthau yn addrodd I'r Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol ac i'w All
- **Governance Board**
 - Member from each collaborative
 - Key stakeholders
- **Advisory group – independently chaired**
 - Professional input and oversight
 - LA's, VAA's & key stakeholders
- **Regional Collaboratives**
 - Partnership boards / Legal agreements
 - Report to Dir. of Operations and to their LA's

Achieving more together / Cyflawni mwy gyda'n gilydd

Bwrdd Ilywodraethu / Governance Board



Cadeirydd / Chair – **Cllr Mel Nott**
Llefarydd / Spokesperson - **Cllr Huw David**
Dirprwy LI / Deputy S'pn - **Cllr Susan Elsmore**
Awdurdod Iletyol / Host LA – **Cllr Sue Lent**

- Gogledd Cymru /North Wales – **Cllr Lloyd Kenyon** (Sir y Fflint /Flintshire)
- Y De-ddwyrain/ South East – **Cllr Haydn Trollope** (Blaenau Gwent)
- Cymoedd Ebwy a Chaerdydd/ Vale Valleys and Cardiff – **Cllr Chris Elmore** (Bro Morgannwg / Vale of Glamorgan)
- Bae gorllewinol/Western Bay – **Cllr Peter Richards** (Castell-nedd Port Talbot / Neath Port Talbot)
- **Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru / Mid & West Wales – Cllr Graham Brown** (Powys)

Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu / Adoption Service



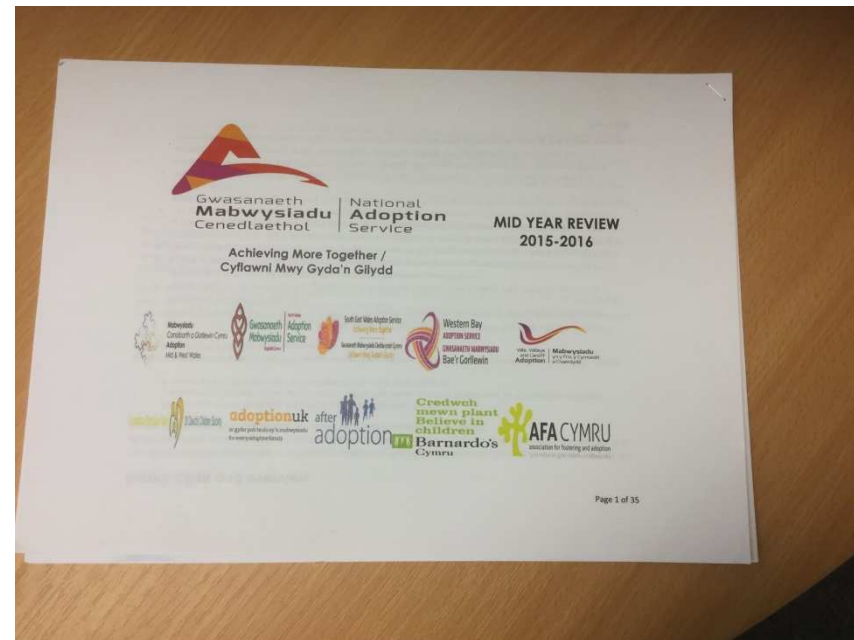
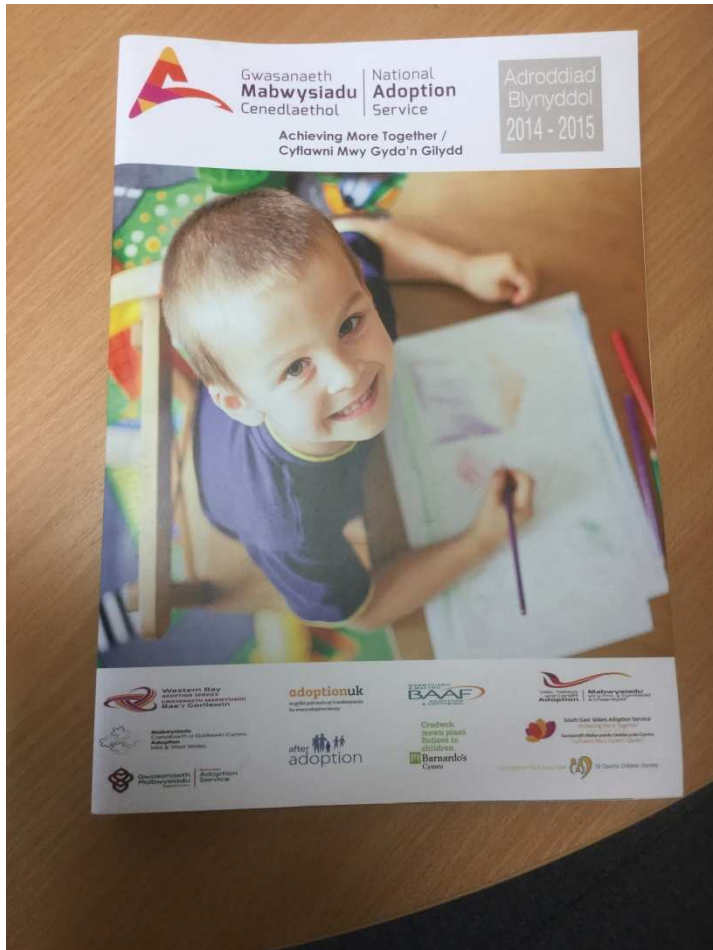
- Gweithio gyda 1000+ o blant = 19% poblogaeth plant sy'n derbyn gofal
- Mae tua 3000 o rieni mabwysiedig yng Nghymru, gyda 300 yn newydd llynedd
- Gwasanaethau Cymorth Mabwysiadu
 - Tua 4,300 o blant wedi cael eu mabwysiadu yng Nghymru
 - Bydd angen rhywfaint o gymorth ar ddwy ran o dair o leoliadau ar ryw gyfnod
- Gwasanaethau i rieni genedigol - cyfle i gael effaith ar nifer o blant yn cael eu symud
- Gwasanaethau i oedolion a fabwysiadwyd
- Working with 1000+ children = circa 19% LAC population
- Circa 3000 adoptive parents in Wales, 300 new last year
- Adoption Support Services
 - Circa 4,300 adopted children in Wales
 - 2/3rds placements will need some support at some stage
- Services to birth parents – opportunity to impact on multiple children being removed
- Services to adopted adults

Cyflawniadau /Achievements



- Trefniadau rhanbarthol ac elfennau canolog wedi eu sefydlu ac yn weithredol
- Trefniadau llywodraethu a Chadeirydd Annibynnol yn ei le
- Ymgysylltu â mabwysiadwyr a phobl ifanc sydd wedi eu mabwysiadu
- Yn gallu gweld perfformiad a chymhariaethau rhanbarthol
- Gwelliannau perfformiad
- Blaenoriaethau datblygu clir
- Regional collaboratives & central elements up and running
- Governance arrangements and Independent Chair in place
- Engagement with adopters and adopted young people
- Can see performance & regional comparisons
- Performance improvements
- Clear development priorities

Perfformiad / Performance



Achieving more together / Cyflawni mwy gyda'n gilydd

Heriau a'r cynllun /Challenges and the plan



- Gwasanaethau Cymorth Mabwysiadu
 - Gwrando ar yr hyn y mae mabwysiadwyr a phlant yn ddweud wrthym
 - Prosiect ar ffafrir FEL model ar gyfer Cymru a lle mae asesiadau (newydd) yn cael eu cynnal
 - Lwfansau ariannol – cysondeb
 - Cronfa ddata Mabwysiadwr & cadw mewn cysylltiad
 - Gwaith stori bywyd
 - Cynllun ar waith ar gyfer pob mabwysiad newydd
 - Alinio gyda a thynnu ar gynlluniau iechyd ac addysg
 - Adnoddau - byr , canolig a hir
- Adoption Support services
 - Listen to what adopters and children are telling us
 - Project on preferred AS model for Wales & where (new) assessments are undertaken
 - Financial allowances - consistency
 - Adopter data base & keeping in touch
 - Life Story work
 - Align with and pull on health and education plans
 - Resources – short, medium and long term

Heriau a'r cynllun /Challenges and the plan



- Y mabwysiadwyr iawn - yn enwedig ar gyfer brodyr a chwiorydd a phlant hŷn gyda chymhlethdodau
- Lleoli plant cyn gynted â phosibl
 - canllaw arfer gorau a'r holl dulliau
- Adolygiad o Gofrestr Fabwysiadu Cymru
 - Gwell cefnogaeth i gyfateb mewn rhanbarthau a thu hwnt
- Maethu i fabwysiadu - darpariaeth gyfreithiol newydd
- Adolygiad Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru o'r ymchwiliad 2012....??
- The right adopters - particularly for siblings and older children with complexities
- Placing children as quickly as possible
 - Best practice guide / all methods
- Review of the Wales Adoption Register
 - Better support to matching in regions and beyond
- Foster to adopt – new legal provision
- National Assembly for Wales review of the 2012 enquiry....??

Diolch / Thankyou



- Suzanne Griffiths
 - suzanne.griffiths@adoptcymru.com
 - contact@adoptcymru.com
- National Adoption Service / Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol
 - www.adoptcymru.com
- Tel. 02920 873927

Beth mae mabwysiadwyr a phobl ifanc yn ei ddweud wrthym



What adopters and young people tell us

Dywed Pobl Ifanc...

- Dwi eisiau help i ddeall fy emosiynau
- Dydy'r ysgol ddim yn deall mabwysiadu

Materion o bwys i fabwysiadwyr

- Therapi i'r plentyn / mynediad i CAMHS
- Cymorth gan yr ysgol (cynradd ac uwchradd)

Young People say

- I want support to understand my emotions
- School doesn't understand adoption

Adopters issues are

- Therapy for the child / access to CAMHS
- Getting support in school (primary & secondary)

Beth mae mabwysiadwyr a phobl ifanc yn ei ddweud wrthym

What adopters and young people tell us



Dywed Pobl Ifanc...

- Dwi eisiau gwybod am fy ngorffennol a'r broses o'm mabwysiadu
- Mwy o gymorth o ran Cysylltu â'r Teulu Genedigol

Materion o bwys i fabwysiadwyr

- Gwaith Taith Bywyd
- Cyswllt â rhieni Genedigol

Young People say

- I want to know about my past & my adoption
- More support around Birth Family Contact

Adopters issues are

- Life Journey work
- Contact with Birth parents

Heriau a'r cynllun /Challenges and the plan



- Creu cynnig gwahanol go iawn ar gyfer defnyddwyr gwasanaethau
- Ymgysylltu effeithiol â defnyddwyr gwasanaeth
- Materion llywodraethu ac Isadeiledd
- Creating a real different deal for service users
- Effective service user engagement
- Governance & Infrastructure issues

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14th APRIL 2016

Youth Services Update Report

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To update scrutiny committee members on :

- The Youth Progression and Engagement Framework.
- The Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task and Finish Review Action Plan.
- The efficiency savings impact on the service and progress made with re-structuring of the Youth Service.

Reasons:

- To enable Members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the delivery of education and youth support services as specified in the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Aeron Rees</p> <p>Report Author: Gill Adams</p> <p>Matt Morden</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Learner Programmes</p> <p>Principal Manager Youth Support Services</p> <p>Learning Transformation Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246532 jarees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01554 744322 gmadams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246648 msmorden@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

Youth Services Update Report

This report updates Scrutiny Committee members on the progress made by the Youth Support Service and related partners on:

- The implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement & Progression Framework initiative during the 2015/2016 academic year.
- A review of the Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task and Finish Review Action Plan
- Efficiency savings impact on the service and progress made with re-structuring of the service.

The attached report includes:

- Details of on-going work led by the Learning Transformation Manager in conjunction with the Youth Support Service to deliver the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework designed to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET);
- An update on actions to deliver the recommendations of the 2013/14 Members Youth Clubs Task and Finish Group (Appendix 2).
- Details of the merger of the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service to form the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service on 1/1/16.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Aeron Rees Head of Learner Programmes

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Youth Work

Youth support services linked to the Welsh Government’s Youth Engagement and Progression Framework for young people aged 11-25 in Carmarthenshire play an important role in promoting social inclusion via activities including:

- The identification of young people at risk of not succeeding in formal education via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) of all pupils on school roll;
- Tracking of young people when they leave school via the Careers Wales IO Database;
- The follow up and use of targeted youth work to engage with young people known to be not in employment, education or training;
- A wide range of youth work projects in schools, youth centres and local communities;
- Welsh medium and bilingual education and youth support service delivery.

Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes (2013) sets out the key principles which underpin youth work in Wales. It provides an overview of the nature, purposes and delivery methods used in youth work practice.

Youth Justice

In July 2014, the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board published, “Children and Young People First”, their joint strategy to improve services for young people from Wales at risk of becoming involved in, or in, the youth justice system. Sitting below the strategy is a national annual delivery plan which will be monitored by the Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel.

2. Legal

Section 123 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 requires that the local authority, "...provide youth support services, secure the provision of youth support services or participate in the provision of youth support services." Within the Act there is an expectation that a local authority puts in place a mechanism to plan, coordinate and deliver a range of support services for all young people (11-25) in its area, working in close cooperation with young people and providers of services for them.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established Youth Offending Teams* in England and Wales with the stated intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending. Youth Offending Teams are statutory, multi-disciplinary partnerships that are co-ordinated by the Local Authority. Local governance is carried out by a management board made up of the partners, and nationally by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, which is part of the Ministry of Justice.

*Youth Offending Team is a generic term; names given to such teams within local authorities in England and Wales can vary. In Carmarthenshire, 'Youth Justice Team' is the term used.

3. Finance

The Youth Support Service relies upon a wide range of funding streams all of which are public funding. The service has emerged out of the need for radical structural change in response to the requirement for efficiencies to be made.

The great majority of public funding available to support youth work in Wales is administered by local authorities with funding allocated from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) provided by Welsh Government. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is an unhyothecated funding stream and it is therefore a decision of local authorities as to how this funding is utilised in order to best meet their local needs and priorities, including the provision of youth services.

In 2015/16 the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service received a total of £812,134 from the County Council. In 2016/17 this amount has been reduced to £793,728.

Since 2013, the Welsh Government (WG) has provided an annual grant to support the local development of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This funding will continue for 2016/17. In addition to this YEPF specific resource, a wide range of grants and the Youth Support Service core budget support this work.

Funding cuts have been confirmed for 2016/17 in relation to:

- WG Families First – a reduction of £3,241 in relation to school based youth work support and £29,323 in relation to post 16 youth work support respectively, compared with 2015/16;

- WG Promoting Positive Engagement for Children and Young People (at risk of offending) - a reduction of 11.6% (£26,398) compared with the previous year.

At the time of writing, the Youth Justice Board has not confirmed its funding allocation for the provision of youth justice services within Carmarthenshire. However, having modelled the service budget to include a projected cut of 25% (as advised by the Youth Justice Board in early March 2016) the Youth Support Service could be facing an overall reduction in funding of £152,552 in 2016/17 as compared with 2015/16 (- 6.8%).

The Youth Support Service has been allocated an additional sum of £50,000 from the County Council for 2016/17 (included in current budget projections). This money will be used to support targeted safeguarding and prevention interventions linked to critical areas of work including child sexual exploitation and work under s.26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on the local authority to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."

5. Risk Management Issues

While implementing the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework is not a statutory requirement on the local authority, failure to deliver a reduction in the number of young people who are NEET will have significant risks for Carmarthenshire. These risks include increasing numbers of young people unable to enter employment locally, increasing levels of benefit dependency and families suffering from the effects of poverty.

Further proposed cuts to the provision of youth justice services within Carmarthenshire will doubtlessly have an impact upon how services are configured and delivered.

6. Staffing Implications

The Welsh Government's YEPF grant supports one dedicated post within the Youth Support Service. A range of other funding sources including grants and core budget support a wide range of service posts delivering the six elements of the YEPF.

The re-structuring of the Youth Support Service in January 2016 has resulted in the loss of a Service Manager post and 2 Senior Youth Officer posts. Whilst other posts are not under immediate threat in 2016/17, any further cuts to funding streams and changes to funding arrangements could have implications for staffing.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Aeron Rees** **Head of Learner Programmes**

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – During 2015/16 Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service staff and unions have been widely consulted on the revised Youth Support Service staffing structure implemented from 1st January 2016 (see section 3 of attached report).

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan (2013)	<p>Cymraeg http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-cy.pdf</p> <p>English http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-en.pdf</p>
Statistics Wales – Youth Work in Wales data set 2014-2015	<p>http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2014/141022-youth-work-2014-15-en.pdf</p>
York University Study 2010 – Estimating the Lifetime costs of young people becoming NEET	<p>http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/NEET_Summary.pdf</p>
Carmarthenshire Labour Market Information report	<p>http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/resource/view?resourceId=1078</p>

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
<p>Wales Audit Office study on NEET Reduction strategies in Wales (July 2014)</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://www.audit.wales/cy/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_Welsh.pdf</p> <p>English http://www.wao.gov.uk/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_English.pdf</p>
<p>National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-cy.pdf</p> <p>English http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-en.pdf</p>
<p>Youth Justice Strategy for Wales: Children and Young People First (2014)</p>	<p>Cymraeg https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374573/Youth_Justice_Strategy_Welsh.PDF</p> <p>English https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374572/Youth_Justice_Strategy_English.PDF</p>

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Update Report on Youth Support Services

1.0 Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement & Progression Framework Update

The Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework focuses on reducing the number of young people aged 11 to 25 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. This non-statutory plan sets out the responsibilities of the local authority in bringing together a partnership to oversee local delivery of the framework.

The strategy identifies has six key elements that combine to enable a reduction in the number of young people becoming NEET in a local area:

- Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP);
- Better brokerage and co-ordination of support for young people;
- Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system;
- Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people;
- Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment; and
- Greater accountability for better outcomes for young people.

This work links with the implementation of the Post 16 Planning and Funding System in 2014, the recommendations of the Review of 14-19 Qualifications in Wales 2012 together with the WG's wider work to boost youth employment through Jobs Growth Wales, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Carmarthenshire has developed a shared approach to implementing the YEPF, working in close collaboration with Pembrokeshire and overseen by the shared two counties Executive Group. All Welsh local authorities are required to implement an action plan for the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This action plan is developed in the context of other local authority plans and strategies such as school improvement schemes, Families First, Communities First, Carmarthenshire Corporate Strategy and the Integrated Community Strategy.

The Welsh Government believes that strong strategic leadership from local authorities is a critical part of the successful implementation of these plans. Key to the local delivery of these plans is the identification of a strategic lead officer for this work, together with the employment of an Engagement and Progression co-coordinator. These two roles are required to work closely together to oversee the local implementation of a YEPF plan.

The Welsh Government has set out its on-going commitment to tackling poverty by prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion in the 'Tackling Poverty Action Plan 2012-2016'. A key part of this plan was a commitment to reduce the number of young people who are NEET. New targets were set out in the plan and re-affirmed in the role of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to:

- Reduce the numbers of NEET young people aged 16 - 18 to 9% by 2017;
- Reduce the proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.

Working closely with the Pembrokeshire 14-19 Network and Careers Wales, the Carmarthenshire 14-19 Network and the Youth Support Service have refocused a range of provision to meet the needs of young people and the requirements of the Welsh Government's YEPP.

To date these actions have included:

- Restructuring of the Youth Support Service to combine the work of the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service to work on a thematic basis to ensure greater consistency of support services for young people;
- Appointment of an Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator;
- Gaining agreement that school and college based youth work together with post 16 youth work will be "made services" in Families First commissioning process and thus ensuring funding of these roles to 2017;
- Implementation of a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) programme to identify all young people in secondary schools at risk of becoming NEET at 16;
- Use of information gained from the VAP to identify pupils in need of support in schools and supporting the post 16 transition of young people likely to become NEET;
- Using monthly 5 Tier NEET data from Careers Wales and Job Centre Plus to follow up and support young people aged 16-19;
- Mapping of the learning provision (core and additional NEET related) available in the county to avoid duplication;
- Better sharing of information regarding job and training vacancies locally;
- Development of ESF bids with regional partners for submission to the EU 2014-2020 programme to support the young people most at risk of becoming NEET;
- Continued close working with Pembrokeshire on these developments via the shared Pembrokeshire / Carmarthenshire 14-19 & YEPP steering group and shared training events.

A key part of the implementation of the YEPP in Carmarthenshire is the implementation of a network of 'lead workers' providing continuity of support and contact to vulnerable young people and supporting them to engage with and access wider support services. Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service staff are both suitably skilled and best positioned to provide the lead worker role for many of the young people identified as being in need of support to prevent their disengagement from education and training, or to support them to re-engage.

This work is closely linked to the use of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) in all secondary schools. This tool identifies young people in need of additional support, which is then provided by a combination of mainstream services and Families First interventions overseen by the Team Around the Family approach. The VAP will also be used to target interventions funded by the regional Cynnydd ESF bid. Funding from this bid is likely to be available from early in 2016 and will be overseen by a joint management group incorporating staff from the local authority and Coleg Sir Gâr.

While this work means that officers are better placed than ever to know the whereabouts of young people of school age in Carmarthenshire, it also results in the relevant departmental services becoming aware of more young people out of mainstream education and thus in need of support.

Carmarthenshire Pupil Destination Data – October 2015

The latest Carmarthenshire Careers Wales pupil destination data (2015) shows that the percentage of Carmarthenshire Year 11 pupils who became NEET rose very slightly

from 3.4% (69 yp) in 2014 to 3.5% (69 yp) in 2015. The all Wales comparative data for 2015 will be published by Statistics Wales in April 2016.

This small increase was a function of the effects of the following factors:

- The high level of dependency on external grant funding to support the Youth Support Service and YEPF;
- An increased focus on pupil attendance leading to more young people being educated at home (given parents are concerned about fines if pupils do not attend school and thus are withdrawing their children to avoid this) and where this happens in Years 10 and 11, the likelihood of these young people becoming NEET increases significantly.
- The Welsh Government and Wales European Funding Unit delays in implementing the 2015 -2020 ESF programme which offers opportunities for targeted project work with this cohort of young people.

Additionally, the percentages of pupils progressing to 6th Form (39%) and FE College – primarily Coleg Sir Gâr (46%) have remained fairly static over the last five years. This is a reflection of the strength of local educational partnership working which is acknowledged as sector leading. Consequently, there is not great “competition” locally for Post 16 pupils.

In 2015, Carmarthenshire schools retained 81% of their Year 12 leavers, suggesting a high degree of pupil satisfaction with the Sixth Form experience on offer in schools. The percentage of young people becoming NEET at the end of Year 12 was 1.0%. However, focus on this cohort of young people remains a priority since levels of pupil drop out from Year 12 can be an indicator of dissatisfaction with the curriculum on offer, particularly for those pupils who return to the Sixth Form without a clear focus for progression and/or weak GCSE grades.

The percentage of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET has dropped from 6.0% (46 yp in 2014 to 2.8% - 21 yp) in 2015. Most Year 13 leavers (69.5%) progressed to university, with 9% progressing to further education and 5% remaining in school for another year. This data suggests that a small number of pupils who were not well suited to A Levels stayed on at school when they may have been better served progressing to FE College or work-based training. These pupils did not achieve high grades at A Level in school and thus either went to further education post A Level (in effect wasting two years in school) and/or did not progress and became NEET. This area is a particular focus for the new Post 16 Planning and Funding System and will be a key area of study in the current 11-19 Education & Training review.

The 2015 destination data highlights the on-going need to reduce the number of young people who become NEET. This work will be supported by curriculum review initiatives currently being developed by the Department for Education and Children and a range of work-related education programmes being delivered by the CCC Regeneration Team. Additionally, activities delivered via the regional Cynnydd ESF project will assist young people in progressing to further education, training and employment during the Post 16 education phase.

The Regional Cynnydd ESF Project

The Cynnydd project (known as “operation” in WEFO/EU terminology) will be funded via Specific Objective 2 (to reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds) of the 2014-2020 West Wales and the Valleys ESF Operational

Programme. The lead beneficiary (budget holder) is Pembrokeshire County Council who will be responsible for central project management and the oversight of procurement associated with the project.

The other Cynnydd beneficiaries (partners) are the five local authorities and five further education colleges in South West Wales, together with Careers Wales. Cynnydd is targeted at those young people aged 11 – 24 who are identified as being at the very greatest risk of becoming NEET. It will systematically identify and track these young people, making use of each county's pupil Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) that identifies young people who may not succeed in education and thus become NEET. All young people supported by the project must be identified as being at risk of becoming NEET by the VAP. The strategy behind the operation is aligned to the EU /ESF Operational Programme and key Welsh Government policies, in particular the flagship Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, a strategy aimed at reducing the number of young people who become NEET in Wales.

Across the south west Wales region, Cynnydd will work with 4,500 young people who are judged to be most at risk of becoming NEET, over an initial three year period from January 2016 to December 2018. In Carmarthenshire, the project will work with 1008 young people, with this group being supported via local authority and Coleg Sir Gar staff together with additional projects procured via the Sell to Wales system.

The primary outcomes of the project will be measured using the indicator "Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11 – 24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving". It is hoped that the overall effects of this programme and related curriculum developments will be to significantly reduce the numbers of young people in Carmarthenshire becoming NEET.

Carmarthenshire County Council YEPF Actions 2016-2017

The following actions are identified in the Carmarthenshire YEPF grant work plan submitted to Welsh Government in February 2016. These actions will be the main focus of work for the related staff over the coming financial year:

1. Sustaining the Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator role functions in Carmarthenshire for the 2016-2017 year (on-going to 31st March 2017);
2. Full implementation of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile in all Secondary Schools for Years 7-11 to ensure early identification of all young people who may become NEET (by 1st September 2016);
3. On-going brokerage and support through multi-agency working for young people aged 11-18 at risk of becoming NEET via the Carmarthenshire Supporting Education, Employment and Training Group (by 31st March 2017);
4. Updating and expanding the Carmarthenshire Provision map and hosting of a web-based resource highlighting this information via the Un Sir Gar hub (by 31st October 2016);
5. Tracking young people during the key transition periods (e.g. Year 11 leavers) in partnership with Careers Wales (on-going to 31st March 2017);
6. Working with the Carmarthenshire Cynnydd Project Manager and Coleg Sir Gar to implement the in-county elements of this regional ESF project to reduce the number of young people who become NEET (on-going to 31st March 2017);
7. Supporting the development of the regional *Cam Nesa* ESF project to deliver employability skills for 16-25's who are currently NEET (by 31st March 2017);

8. Supporting the transition of young people from Year 11 to Post 16 provision via multi-agency working with FE and training providers (on-going to 31st March 2017);
9. Supporting the brokerage of support services for young people identified through the CW Tier Model data and the work of the Carmarthenshire SEET group (on-going to 31st March 2017);
10. Enhancing the activities delivered through initiatives funded by the Youth Work Strategy Support Grant (on-going to 31st March 2017);
11. Undertaking the Lead Worker casework role for young people identified as Tier 1 on the Careers Wales IO database (on-going to 31st March 2017);
12. Sustaining links with local voluntary sector organisations to ensure specific and targeted provision for the most vulnerable young people who may otherwise not be known to the YEPF partnership (on-going to 31st March 2017).

2.0 Update on Recommendations of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Action Plan

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development.

At the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 13th March 2013, members considered a report outlining proposals to establish a task and finish review of the County Council's youth club provision. Members were informed that the current provision of County Council youth clubs had developed over an eighteen year period following the creation of Carmarthenshire County Council in 1996. While these youth clubs met the local needs of young people when they were created, there was a need to plan this provision more strategically.

Given changing Welsh Government priorities for youth service provision and on-going financial pressures on the local education authority budget, a review of the current delivery of youth clubs was needed to develop a service that was sustainable and responsive to the current needs of Carmarthenshire young people.

The Committee unanimously resolved to accept the report and establish a Task & Finish Group to undertake a review. This group met to review the existing youth club provision and address key issues during 2013. A final report on this work was presented to the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2014.

The Task and Finish Group made 10 recommendations to inform the future development of youth club provision in Carmarthenshire. An update on the progress of the related actions is provided in Appendix 2 (below).

3.0 Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service

The management structure of the Youth Service was re-organised in June 2014, with the establishment of a Principal Youth Officer role and a shift from an area-based approach to a thematic structure managed by 3 Senior Youth officers. The cross county thematic approach was based around schools and college based youth work, Post 16

and YEPF work and positive activities.

During 2014 and 2015, discussions between Carmarthenshire Youth Service and Carmarthenshire Youth Offending and Prevention Service Managers highlighted the potential for a shared management structure that would retain the statutory functions of both services; bring together the preventative work of both services and retain elements of direct universal youth work provision. It was anticipated that an integrated management structure would allow for the development of a more holistic approach to youth support services based upon key themes:

- The development of team around the family approaches that involve both services;
- An increasingly targeted approach to youth work in Wales;
- Fewer young people entering the criminal justice system;
- A recognition that in many cases both services were working with the same young people;
- On-going public sector budget cuts for the foreseeable future;
- The requirements of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the need to reduce the number of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training'.

From April 2015, the Youth Offending and Prevention Service and the Youth Service became accountable to a single Service Manager. This led to the creation of an integrated management structure which promoted an ethos of working together to deliver targeted youth support to those young people in greatest need and who present the highest likelihood of engaging in anti-social behaviour and youth offending. Since this time a phased re-structure has taken place to establish the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service on 1/01/16. Staff and unions were consulted in relation to both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the re-structuring process:

Phase 1: achieved the appointment of a Principal Youth Support Service Manager (in October 2015) to oversee the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service from 1/01/16.

Phase 2: achieved the appointment of 4 Youth Support Managers responsible for the management of 4 teams across the Youth Support Service from 1/02/16.

Vision

'A service that provides a robust range of support from open access to specialized support, enabling children, young people, young adults (aged 8-25 years) to access *what* they need, *when* and *where* they need it so that they can reach their full personal, social and educational potential.'

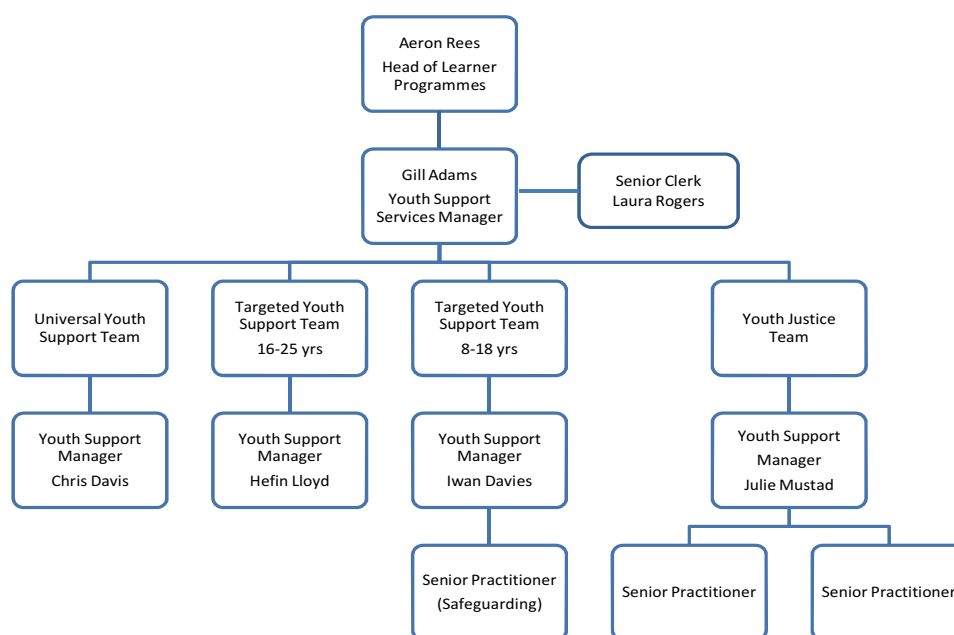
Core Values

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service:

- is innovative and creative in its service delivery
- contributes to the Welsh Government priority of reducing poverty
- utilises restorative approaches within its practice

- promotes inclusion and participation of children and young people
- has a well-trained, skilled and supported workforce, able to offer a range of services in Welsh and English
- has a team of trained, skilled volunteers (parenting; Referral Order Panellists; mentors; parent mentors; Duke of Edinburgh’s Award provision)
- engages with families and carers for better outcomes.

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Management Structure



Youth Clubs, positive and diversionary activities including D of E

Community Outreach and Post 16 Youth Work including TAF 16-25

Prevention work, school and college based Youth Work TAF 11-16

All statutory Youth Justice functions

Universal Support Team:

= 8 members of staff; 18 Youth Club Staff; 16 volunteers

Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 yrs):

= 11 members of staff

Targeted Youth Support Team (8-18 yrs)

= 21 members of staff

Youth Justice Team

= 16 members of staff; 8 volunteers

Priorities:

The following Youth Support Service Priorities emerged out of a workshop involving key members of management and staff held in November 2015.

1. **To encourage children and young people to access universal youth work provision**

Via:

- Youth Club provision.
- Constructive activities.
- Holiday activities & programmes.
- Links with other youth organisations.
- Access to Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

2. To support young people to access appropriate health and wellbeing services

Via:

- Access to substance misuse services.
- Access to primary; secondary and other specialist health/ mental health services e.g. Iechyd Da/Youth Health Team; CAMHS.

3. To support educational attendance and attainment:

- Reducing the number of school leavers without qualifications.
- Reducing the number of children and young people at risk of becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Supporting children, young people and young adults who are NEET back into Education, Employment, and Training.

Via:

- Families First Projects.
- TAF approach.
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (intervention; Vulnerability Assessment Profile; brokerage; tracking; provision; training and employment)
- 1:1 work with children; young people and young adults.
- Links with stakeholders - Careers Wales; schools; colleges; specialist provision; EOTAS.
- Provision of ASDAN; OCN and accredited qualifications.
- Group work and targeted projects.

4. Safeguarding children young people and young adults

Via:

- Appropriate assessment routes and referral mechanisms.
- Youth Support Service engagement in county wide/regional provision/systems - to ensure that children and young people are kept safe.
- Delivery of targeted preventative work with those children, young people and young adults who are identified as being vulnerable to abuse; exploitation and other risks from others, including radicalisation.

5. Diversion of children and young people away from the criminal justice system

Via:

Carmarthenshire Bureau which delivers the provision of 'Out of Court Disposals' (Community Resolutions; Youth Cautions) in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police.

6. Prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people

Via:

- Accepting referrals for targeted prevention and anti-social behaviour work.
- Services to courts and Referral Order Panels.
- Delivery of criminal justice duties.
- Provision of assessments in relation to children and young people.
- Provision of bespoke intervention packages linked to assessed risk and need.
- Reviewing the progress of children and young people, including involvement of parents can carers.
- Management of assessed risk and vulnerability in relation to children and young people.
- Links with National Probation Service for transition of appropriate cases in line with 'Youth 2 Adult Transitions' (17+ years).
- Remand management planning.
- Sentence planning/management.

Delivery of Youth Support Services

Services to children, young people and young adults are delivered by 4 teams:

- Universal Support Team
- Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)
- Targeted Youth Support Team (8-18 years)
- Youth Justice Team

Each team is responsible for some unique areas of delivery, however it is essential that all teams link together in order to maximise opportunities to deliver high quality services to children, young people and young adults within Carmarthenshire.

Universal Support Team

Responsible for the delivery of open access provision including; adventurous outdoor activity; youth clubs; the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; programmes of accredited learning; delivery of activities to support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour; co-ordination of staff training; support for young people's participation in decisions that affect them; residential programmes for young people both in the UK and abroad.

Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)

Detached, outreach youth work provision in the community funded by Welsh Government Families First programme to meet the requirements of developing Team around the Family approaches and the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

Targeted Youth Support (8-18years)

School-based youth workers based in all Carmarthenshire secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gar, funded by Welsh Government Families First to meet the requirements of developing Team Around the Family approaches and the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

Prevention workers within the team assess children and young people; deliver intervention programmes and work with a range of organisations to reduce youth crime, support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Youth Support Service is increasingly working regionally with the other Youth Offending Teams/Services in the Dyfed-Powys region to ensure that youth crime prevention is aligned with the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Youth Justice Board and the Welsh Government.

Youth Justice Team ('YOT'*)

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service retains its statutory 'Youth Offending Team' function, being a multi-agency partnership which draws resources from the Local Authority, Dyfed Powys Police, National Probation Service and Hywel Dda University Health Board with the principal aim of preventing youth offending. A number of grant funding streams supplement the resources contributed by statutory partners. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales monitors the performance of all Youth Offending Teams in Wales against seven performance indicators:

- re-offending rates
- number of first time entrants
- custodial sentences
- young people's access to substance misuse assessment and treatment
- young people's access to suitable accommodation
- young people's access to education, training or employment
- young people's access to emotional and mental health assessment and treatment.

(*YOT is a generic term and the name given to teams can vary from area to area)

Within Carmarthenshire, the Youth Justice Team works with approximately 100-120 young people under 18 years, at any given time, who have offended and who are subject to Community Resolutions; Youth Cautions; community sentences and custodial sentences. Work undertaken can be varied and will often include specialist interventions. Central to the work is a focus on the impact of offending upon victims and the community. Young people are helped and encouraged to understand the consequences of their offending via the delivery of restorative approaches.

The Youth Support Service has a well established Substance Misuse Service located within the Youth Justice Team. The service works to agreed action plan and is due to produce its annual report in April 2016.

Conclusion

Since 1/0/1/16, a number of critical milestones have been achieved in a short space of time to establish the Youth Support Service Management structure. The vision, values

and priorities for the service have been agreed, and a business plan for the service is being drawn together for 2016/17. The service will continue to build upon some very positive achievements in 2015/16; and will seek to continue with a number of other developments:

- From 1/4/15 to 17/3/16 young people in Carmarthenshire gained 640 Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (Bronze : 500; Silver:101; Gold: 39). 1003 young people are enrolled to take up the award in 2016/17. Two very successful celebration events were organised to recognise the achievements of the young people receiving their awards in 2015/16.
- The Youth Support Service continues to be one of 4 test sites in Wales selected by the Youth Justice Board for the delivery of an Enhanced Case Management approach. The aims of the approach are firstly, to provide practitioners and managers with increased knowledge and understanding in relation to how early attachment, trauma and adverse life events can impact on a young person's ability to engage effectively in youth justice interventions. Secondly, to provide a psychology-led approach to multi-agency case formulation and intervention planning. This work is making a significant contribution to enabling staff to tailor and sequence interventions more effectively according to the developmental and mental health needs of individual young people.
- The Youth Support Service Substance Misuse provision continues to participate in a Welsh Government Substance Misuse Outcome Monitoring Pilot. This requires reporting information to Welsh Government using a Young Person's Outcome Tool. This first pilot ended in February 2016 with a second phase planned for June 2016.
- There is on-going development of partnership working within Carmarthenshire to support young people into employment, education and training under the implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- Since 2006/7 the number of children/young people convicted or cautioned has fallen in England and Wales by 77% and the number of young people entering the justice system for the first time (referred to as First Time Entrants) is down 81%. As a result the number of children in custody has declined by 64% and is now at its lowest recorded level.
- These national trends are also reflected locally. Within Carmarthenshire, First Time Entrants have fallen from 410 (April 2006/7) to 49 (April 2014/ March 2015). There has been a 50.6% decrease in First Time Entrants when comparing July to June 2013/14 against July to June 2014/15. This is in comparison with a 52.0% decrease in Dyfed Powys and a 25.1% decrease across Wales. A full analysis of performance against Youth Justice Board performance indicators for 2015/16 will be available in May 2016.

Challenges and opportunities:

- It is widely understood that children/young people who remain in the youth justice system are those that display the most challenging and ingrained behaviour and have the most complex needs. In Carmarthenshire work is being undertaken to respond to this challenge through the provision of effective evidence based practice designed to address risks and meet need. This work requires a wider partnership approach within the county to effect positive change through ongoing collaboration with Children's Services colleagues, education, health and accommodation providers.
- The Youth Support Service is very well placed to ensure that its 2 Families First funded projects are central to the delivery of targeted prevention work to improve a range of outcomes for children, young people young adults and their families.
- Diversion of children away from the criminal justice system via Bureau in partnership with the police also allows for children and young people to reflect upon their behaviour and allows for appropriate levels of early intervention designed to reduce risk offending.
- Finally, opportunities exist to develop a menu of programmes and activities through the Universal Support Team and other youth organisations and clubs which will encourage participation and inclusion of children, young people and young adults across Carmarthenshire.

Since January 2016, the Youth Support Service management group has maintained a strong focus upon embedding the vision, core values and priorities of the service. Communication with all Youth Support Service staff in these early days is central to the future success of the service. Newly appointed managers have met with their teams and a Service Development session is planned in June 2016 which provides an opportunity to bring staff together to promote a good understanding of the various roles and functions of each team in contributing to the future success of the service as a whole.

Appendix 1

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Acronym and Jargon Buster Update October 2014

Acronym / Term	Meaning
14-19 Learning Pathways	Welsh Assembly Government strategy to wide course choice, opportunity and achievement for young people aged 14-19
14-19 Networks	The local authority area partnership of schools colleges, training providers and LEA delivering the 14-19 Learning Pathways strategy
14-19 Measure	Welsh Assembly Government legislation that prescribes the number of course choices schools and colleges must provide to 14-16 and 16-19 year olds
ADEW	Association of Directors of Education Wales
Awarding Organisations	Bodies that are officially recognised to offer qualifications, allowing learning providers with good quality systems to provide accredited courses e.g. Agored Cymru (previously known as OCN), City & Guilds, WJEC.
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
Careers Wales	Welsh Government body offering careers advice and guidance to young people
Communities First	WG programme to reduce poverty in the most deprived communities in Wales
CSG	Coleg Sir Gâr – Carmarthenshire's Further Education College
CYC	County Youth Council – representative group for young people
CYPP	Children and Young People's Partnership – body overseeing delivery of education and youth support services for young people aged 11-25
CPD	Continuous professional development – keeping staff skills and knowledge up to date
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DfES	Welsh Government department for Education & Skills (responsible for education policy)
DofE	Duke of Edinburgh's Award
EOTAS	Educated other than at school – children and young people of statutory age who are not attending mainstream state schools but are accessing education delivered by the local authority (e.g. pupil referral units, home tuition, alternative education provision)
EHE	Elective Home Education – children and young people being educated at home by their parents following parental decisions not to educate their children in state schools
EPC	Engagement & Progression Co-ordinator – key LA contact for delivering the YEPF (see below)
ERW	Regional school improvement partnership for the 6 south west and mid Wales Local Authorities (Ceredigion, Powys, NPT, Swansea, Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire)
ESDGC	Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship
ESF	European Social Fund – EU funding scheme to address social inequalities
Estyn	Inspection body overseeing compliance to WG learning policy and delivery requirements
Essential Skills	The Welsh Government term for basic skills (literacy and numeracy)
Extending Entitlement	WG policy for support services for young people aged 11-25
Families First	Welsh Government policy and grant to lift families out of poverty
<i>Fforwm</i>	Mid and west Wales partnership of schools and FE delivering collaborative Welsh Medium courses
FE	Further education – post 16 college e.g. Coleg Sir Gâr (previously known as CCTA)
Gwirvol	WG volunteering programme for young people
HE	Higher education – e.g. Trinity St David University, Swansea University
<i>hwb</i>	The Welsh schools virtual learning environment – an on-line location for

	teaching resources and information relating to teaching and learning
ICT	Information and communications technology – computers, software and hardware
Integrated Community Strategy	LA partnership plan to address key social and economic priorities for the County
IO	Careers Wales database of young people aged 16-19 and their current status
Job Centre Plus	Westminster Government agency administering a variety of benefit payments
Key Skills	Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, working with others, problem solving and improving performance
LA	Local Authority
LLWR	Welsh Assembly Government's learner and funding database
MEP	Modernising Education Programme
MIS	Management information system – computer database storing information on courses and learners
NEET	Not in employment, education or training – a classification for young people aged 16-25 not deemed by government to be engaged in productive activity
NPFS	National Planning & Funding System – WG programme for funding of post 16 learning
NSLA	National Learning and Skills Assessment
<i>Partneriaeth</i>	Carmarthenshire partnership of Welsh Medium Secondary Schools
PBB	Priority Based Budgeting – the on-going programme of corporate budget cuts within CCC
QIP	Quality Improvement Plan
RLP	Regional Learning Partnership – partnership of SW Wales Learning and Regeneration Organisations
RNDP	Regional 14-19 Network Development Plan (replaces the 6 south west and mid Wales ANDPs from April 2012)
RLSO	Regional Learning and Skills Observatory – website with local labour market information
SBCS	School Based Counselling Service
SBIG	Schools Buildings Effectiveness Grant
SEG	School Effectiveness Grant
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEF	School Effectiveness Framework – WG Model to improve school performance
SWWITCH	South West Wales Integrated Transport Partnership
VAP	Vulnerability Assessment Profile – a spreadsheet used to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET based on young people's attendance, achievement and behaviour
WAO	Wales Audit Office
WEG	Welsh in Education Grant
Welsh Baccalaureate	An officially accredited and established qualification delivered by schools, colleges and training providers across Wales that gives broader experiences than traditional learning programmes and develops transferable skills useful for higher education and employment.
WG	Welsh Government
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WJEC	Welsh Examination and Qualifications Awarding Body
YEPF	Youth Engagement & Progression Framework – WG NEET reduction strategy
YOPS	Youth Offending and Prevention Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YSS	Youth Support Service

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Appendix 2

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group 2013/14 Review of the Youth Service Youth Club Provision

Implementation Plan Update – March 2016

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
1.	The provision of youth clubs is valued and the limited existing expenditure should be protected going forward however a new, innovative strategic approach to Carmarthenshire youth clubs is required that takes into consideration best practice identified in some clubs, the local needs of young people and encourages greater involvement by community groups and the voluntary sector.	To consult with young people to find best practice and if their needs are being met.	TG/MM	October '13	<p>Consultation completed</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Existing and commissioned provision is to continue to be funded via the Youth Support Service core budget for the 2016/2017.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
2.	<p>Prioritise increasing the delivery through the medium of Welsh as part of the new strategic approach by commissioning some organisations, such as the Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and the Urdd, to provide open access youth work through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Following an open tender process for the delivery of Welsh medium youth clubs, two organisations have been externally procured. Whitehead-Ross won the tender to deliver in Llandeilo and a consortium made up of the Urdd and the three Mentrau won the tenders for Llanelli, Ammanford and Carmarthen.</p>	TG	<p>Delivery is ongoing. Contracts are in lace until March 31st 2015.</p>	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Due to low number of attendees, Whitehead Ross did not have a contract renewal following Summer Term 2015.</p> <p>Due to ongoing success and high number of attendees the Urdd will continue to provide a youth club service up to 31st March 2017.</p> <p>The Youth Support Service has committed £10,000 to the provision of youth clubs namely: Y Lle (Llanelli); Streets (Ammanford) and Yr Atom (Carmarthen) for 2016/17.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
3.	Base provision going forward on key principles of youth club provision and a "mixed economy" of provision by the County Council Youth Service and a range of voluntary sector or groups with a Four Tier Model of youth club provision as detailed in section 6 (page 16) of this report.	To consider how to enable different levels of provision based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts.	MM/CJD	April '15.	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> 9 CCC youth clubs operate within Carmarthenshire (Llangennech, Burry Port, Kidwelly, Tycroes, Cwmaman, Hendy, Llandovery, Llandybie, Streets (Ammanford). It is proposed that this provision is funded via the Youth Support Service core budget for 2016/2017.</p> <p>Due to poor attendance 2 youth clubs, namely Felinfoel and Llansaint closed during 2015/16. Additional staffing support is provided to 1 voluntary run youth club (Valley Teens)</p> <p>A financial contribution of £7,000 was provided to Dr Mz during 2015/16 towards youth club provision within Carmarthen town. It is proposed that this financial contribution will apply for 2016/17.</p>

Following the closure of the

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
4.	Promote the role of the Carmarthenshire Local Service Board and Children and Young People's Partnership as the accountable bodies overseeing provision and tackling duplication of provision identified (e.g. through formal approval of external funding bids for projects to support young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training).	<p>Raise the profile of youth clubs and the impact of their role on vulnerable young people at LSB and CYPP level.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The Carmarthenshire Local Service Board commissioned a full review of all Strategic Partnerships during October 2014. This review considered all existing structures to ensure that the newly established Public Service Board (effective from April 2016) is fit for purpose and has a supporting structure that will enable it to deliver the outcomes appropriate for the people of Carmarthenshire.</p>	MM/CJD	April '15	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> YSS will sit within the Fair and Safe Communities Thematic Group under the Public Service Board. The Universal Youth Support Team Manager will continue to lead on the agreed action.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
5.	Consider ways to avoid duplication going forward and develop the provision taking into account the needs of young people in communities through consultation with young people, local communities, town and community councils and existing voluntary sector providers.	<p>To undertake a mapping exercise of existing youth club provision.</p> <p>Consultations on youth club provision took place in the Summer of 2013.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>TG</p>	<p>Mapping complete March 2014</p> <p>Consultation completed in October 2013.</p>	<p>A mapping exercise was used to inform Welsh medium youth club locations. The Welsh medium youth club tender specification was shaped by feedback from the consultations.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The Youth Support Service has established links with Welsh Medium youth club provision (Urdd) and other independent youth club provision, such as Dr Mz. This will assist in avoiding duplication as well as plugging potential gaps in provision in accordance with identified need.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
6.	Build upon the strengths of current delivery to develop tender and commissioning specifications to ensure that youth club provision meets needs within communities across the county and offers the opportunity for voluntary sector and community groups to bid to deliver this provision.	To use consultation feedback to shape tender specifications for commissioning new Welsh medium youth clubs.	TG	Oct '14.	<p>Consultation feedback was instrumental in shaping the Welsh medium youth club tender specification and the subsequent commissioning of provision.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Welsh medium youth club provision continues to be supported in 2016/17 and links already established will be built upon.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
7.	Review and clarify existing staff structures and line management responsibilities, with one named officer being responsible for all youth club provision in the county, within existing resources.	To re-structure the youth service.	MM MM/CJD	June '14. April '15.	<p>The Youth Service was subject to a re-structure in 2014 with a Principal Youth Officer (CJD) appointed and a Senior Youth Officer (HT) responsible for youth club provision across the County.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Following the establishment of the Youth Support Service on 1/1/16, an Universal Youth Support Team Manager (CD) has been appointed to oversee youth club provision within Carmarthenshire. A further thorough review of progress to date with respect to the youth club provision recommendations will be instigated as part of the proposed 360° evaluation of YSS, which will report in late Autumn 2016.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
8.	Develop a central set of resources including a youth club development toolkit to support and sustain voluntary and community groups in delivering youth club provision across the county as detailed in section 6 (Page 17) of this report.	To develop a set of resources to support voluntary and community groups in youth club set up and sustainability.	CJD/HT	March '15.	<p>This work is in development and pending the full implementation of the new youth service structure.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> This work will be taken forward by the Universal Youth Support Team Manager in 2016/17.</p>
9.	Implement the proposed implementation plan including commissioning of some voluntary sector youth club provision by September 2014 as detailed in section 7 (Page 17) of this report.	Addressing the recommendations based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts.	MM	July '15	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The following Youth Clubs are operating within the county: 9 County Council Youth Clubs ; 3 Urdd Youth Clubs; Valley Teens; Dr Mz.</p>
10.	Consider funding all or part the universal aspect of youth club provision from the Welsh Government's Youth Work Strategy Support Grant which is ring-fenced to support youth work, including open access provision.	Addressing the recommendations based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts	MM	March '15.	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> It is proposed that this work will be funded from the core youth service budget for 2016/17.</p>

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14th APRIL 2016

Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- How the Council is meeting its Corporate Parenting responsibilities as outlined in our Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Reasons:

- It is the responsibility of the Council to monitor the outcomes and attainment of looked after children and care leavers as part of its Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
- In order for members of the Committee to exercise their scrutiny role.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Stefan Smith</p> <p>Report Author: Bethan T James</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Children's Services</p> <p>Service Manager – Corporate Parenting</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246530 sjsmith@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246534 btbjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

Corporate Parenting & Safeguarding Panel Annual Report

Carmarthenshire's *Corporate Parenting Strategy* outlines that every Department across the Council must work together and take Corporate Parenting responsibility for our looked after children. Schools, Leisure, Housing, Youth and Preventative Services, Education and Children's Services have a duty to act in the best interest of the looked after child as their Corporate Parents.

In line with the strategy, Corporate Parenting Panel provide a level of scrutiny, monitoring, oversight and challenge as to how well the Council is doing in meeting the needs of looked after children and care leavers.

This report will outline:

The number of children looked after by Carmarthenshire County Council and how well they are doing in relation to our aspiration for them as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children’s Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Stefan Smith Head of Children’s Services

- 1. Local Member(s) – N/A**
- 2. Community / Town Council – N/A**
- 3. Relevant Partners – N/A**
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A**

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Enhancing democratic scrutiny and monitoring of Education & Children’s Services to support improvements in standards and safeguarding (Executive Board, 17th November 2014)	<p>Agenda http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20141117/index.asp</p> <p>Minutes http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EXEB20141117/MINUTES.HTM#P106_7945</p>
Carmarthenshire County Council’s Corporate Parenting Strategy 2013-17 (County Council, 15th April 2014)	<p>Strategy http://connect.carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/document/Item_7.3_Report.pdf</p> <p>Minutes http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/COCO20140415/MINUTES.HTM#P256_8223</p>

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**Corporate Parenting Strategy
Progress and Update Report for Scrutiny**

Bethan T James

March 2016

Contents:

1. Context
2. Strategic Aims
3. Background Data
4. Progress and Impact
5. Areas for future improvement
6. Concluding comments

1. Context

Carmarthenshire County Council has a Corporate Parenting responsibility for every child who is classed as *looked after* by the Council and for our young people leaving care. As Corporate Parents the council has the highest of aspirations for the children and young people we care for. We recognise that they are amongst the most vulnerable children in our society and therefore require us to work together to ensure that they become capable future citizens.

Our aspirations for looked after children and care leavers are outlined in our Corporate Parenting Strategy, *'If this were my child'*. The delivery of the strategy is overseen by the Corporate Parenting Panel consisting of:

- Councillor Gareth (Chair)
- Councillor Eirwyn Williams
- Councillor Jan Williams
- Councillor Sian Thomas
- Councillor Sue Allen
- Councillor Mansel Charles
- Councillor Gwyneth Thomas
- Councillor Jeff Thomas
- Councillor Ryan Bartlett
- Councillor Sharen Davies
- Robert Sully, Director of Education and Children's Services
- Jake Morgan, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
- Stefan Smith, Head of Children's Services
- Robin Staines, Head of Housing

Service Managers, Health Colleagues and other professionals attend when discussing or presenting specific items.

The agenda ensures that members have oversight of housing, education, care and social inclusion issues and are able to make judgements as to how well the authority is meeting the needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy outlines the authority's key aspirations for looked after children and care leavers and clearly sets out the actions we intend to take to achieve this. It provides a framework for all Carmarthenshire County Council Officers, Managers and Councillors in order to support them in making a real difference to the lives of looked after children and young people in leaving care services.

The Corporate Parenting Team supports the Council in meeting its Corporate Parenting duties, providing training, oversight and advice to all departments.

Every child needs a good parent who looks out for them, speaks out on their behalf and responds to their needs. For children in care in Carmarthenshire we believe this is a statutory role for **all departments** across the Council.

2. Strategic Aims

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to:

- Supporting family life and will always endeavour for children and young people to reside within their own families and within their own community whenever it is safe to do so.
- Prioritising placements with foster carers rather than letting a child grow up in residential care or an institution.
- Proactively supporting children and young people looked after to achieve their full educational potential.
- Improving the life chances of looked after children and care leavers through the development and delivery a holistic range of services.

The seven core aims for children and young people summarized in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) form the basis for decisions on priorities and objectives nationally. They also form the basis for monitoring outcomes locally for looked after children and care leavers.

Looked after children and care leavers should:

- Have a flying start in life
- Access a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities
- Enjoy the best possible health and freedom from abuse, victimisation and exploitation
- Access play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities
- Be listened to, treated with respect and have their race and cultural identity recognised
- Have a safe home and community which supports physical and emotional well-being
- Not be disadvantaged by poverty

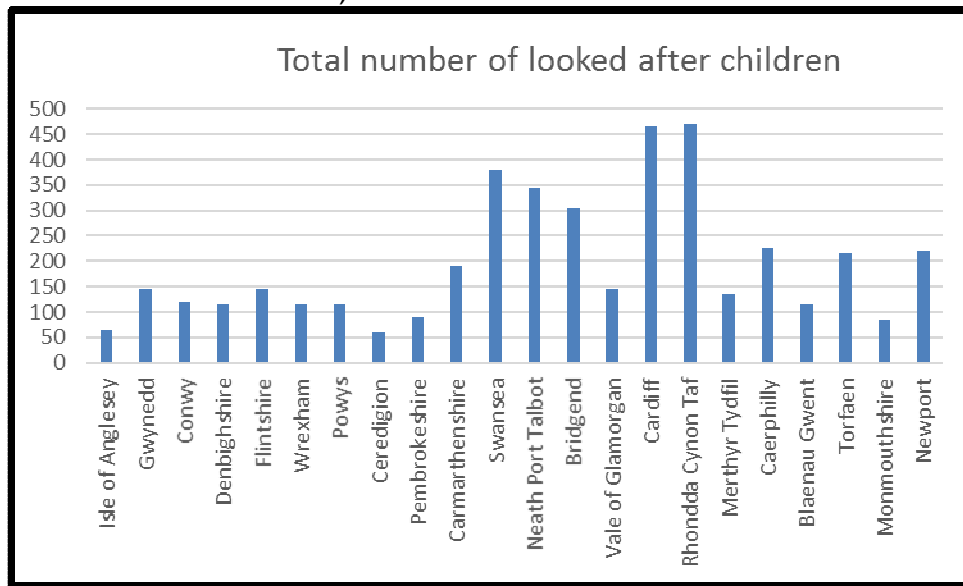
3. Background data

In Wales as of 31st March 2015

- 4, 255 children were in the care of local authorities in Wales compared to 5,756 the previous year.
- 87 children per every 10,000 under the age of 18 in Wales compared to 91 the previous year.
- Carmarthenshire were corporate parents to 240 looked after children compared to 252 the previous year.
- Carmarthenshire were corporate parents to 94 care leavers compared to 83 the previous year.

Graph 1: Number of looked after children by local authority (31st March 2015)

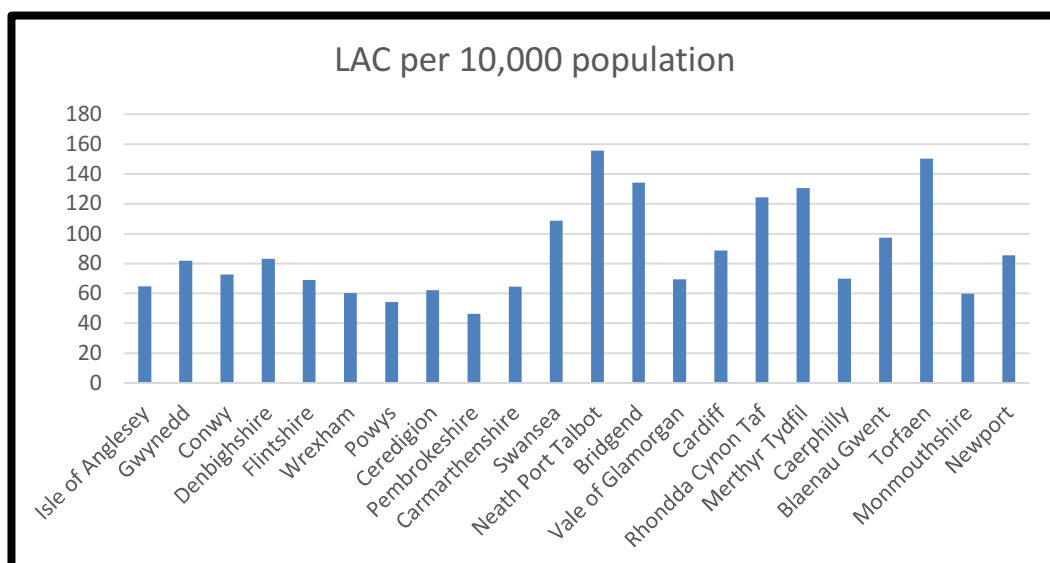
(Wales National Statistic Office).



Given the level of deprivation in Carmarthenshire it is considered that the number of looked after children is moderate when compared with the numbers in other authorities in Wales. A comparative indicator is also the number of looked after children per 10,000 of the population.

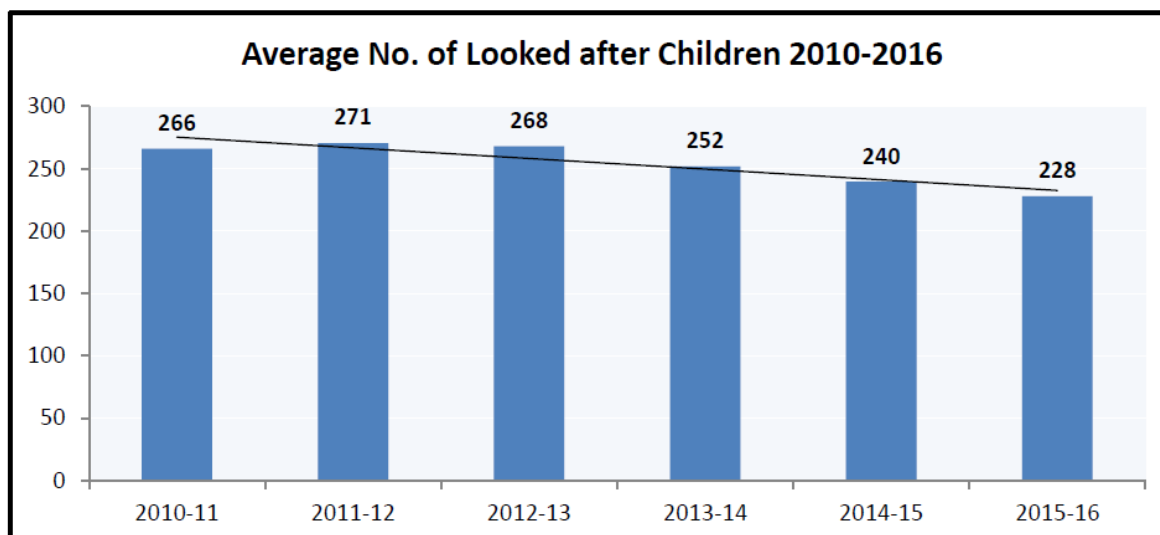
Graph 2: Number of looked after children per 10,000 of the population by local authority (31st March 2015)

The graph below shows the number of looked after children per 10,000 of the population by local authority (Wales National Statistic Office). From this data you can see that Carmarthenshire has a comparative rate with Monmouthshire, Ceredigion, Flintshire and the Anglesey.



Graph 3: Total number of children looked after by Carmarthenshire

This graph shows the average number of children looked after by Carmarthenshire County Council from 2010-2015.



Currently in Carmarthenshire the number of children looked after is dropping when compared to previous years. While it is difficult to prove a statistical correlation it is felt that this is due to targeted preventive services and increased family support through flying start, families first and TAF.

Graph 4: The Total number of Care Leavers

The *Leaving Care and Social Services and Wellbeing Acts* place a responsibility on the authority to support care leavers up to the up to 25 if still engaged in education or training.



While the number of looked after children are decreasing it will take 4-5 years to see this impacting on reducing the number of care leavers that the authority supports as we have a duty to support children up to the age of 25.

4. Progress and impact of the Corporate Parenting Strategy to date

The impact of the Corporate Parenting Strategy is monitored through a range of performance targets under each of the core aims. What follows is a summary of those targets and a bullet point update as to the progress made up to the end of 2015. Where appropriate these are linked to Performance Indicators.

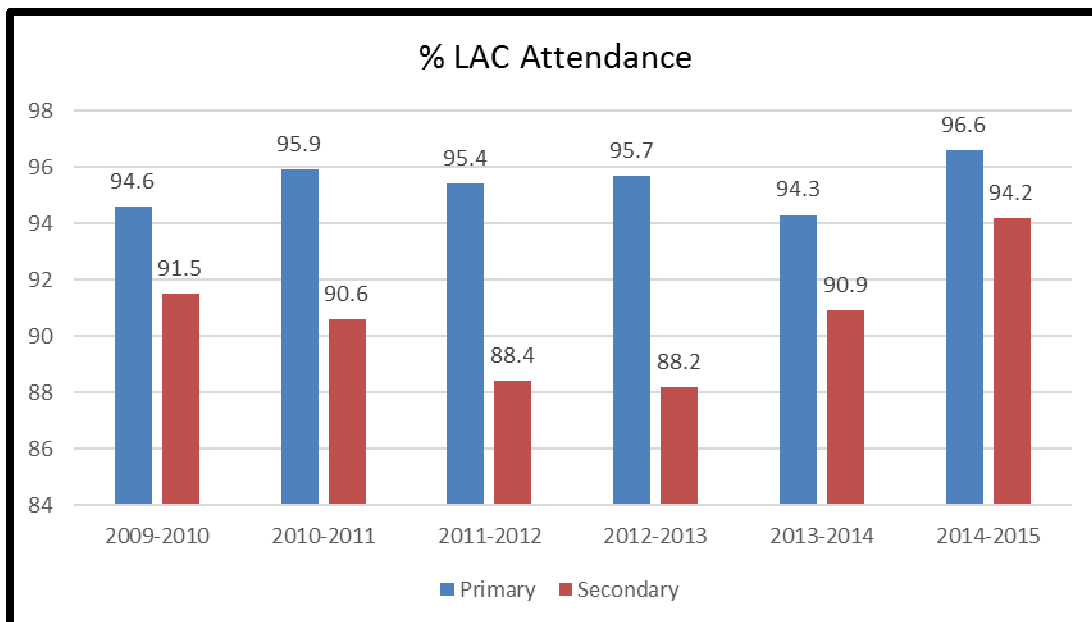
I. Every child to have a flying start in life

- a. Ensure the attendance and attainment of all looked after children is monitored and catch-up support provided where necessary.

The LAC Education Coordinator provides support, guidance and oversight for all matters related to education and attainment. Training is provided for schools, Governors, Elected Members and foster carers. The Corporate Parenting panel receive regular reports from the LAC Education Coordinator.

School Attendance of looked after children

School attendance of our looked after children is good 96.6 % attendance at Primary and 94.2% attendance at Secondary. This is better than the All Wales average.

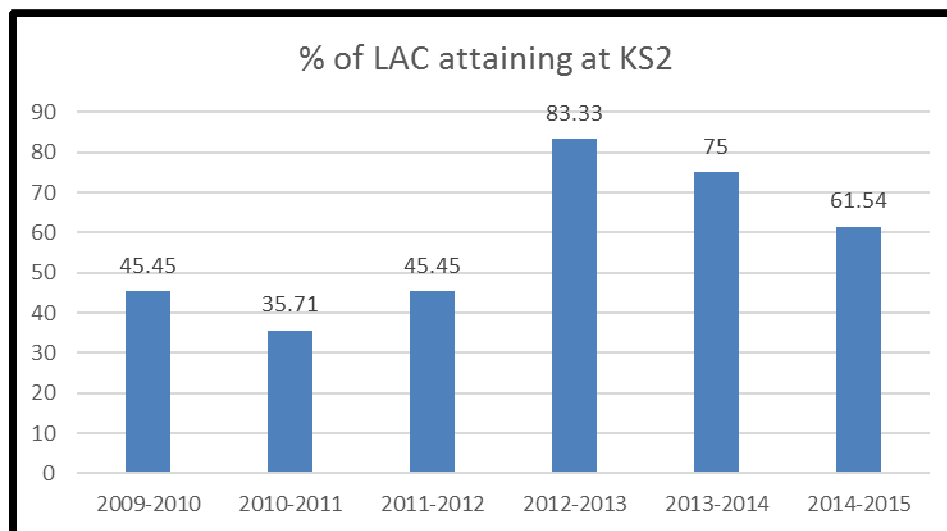


While Secondary school attendance is improving 2-3 children continue to have poor attendance and these children and their carers are being supported in order to attend school.

School attainment of looked after children

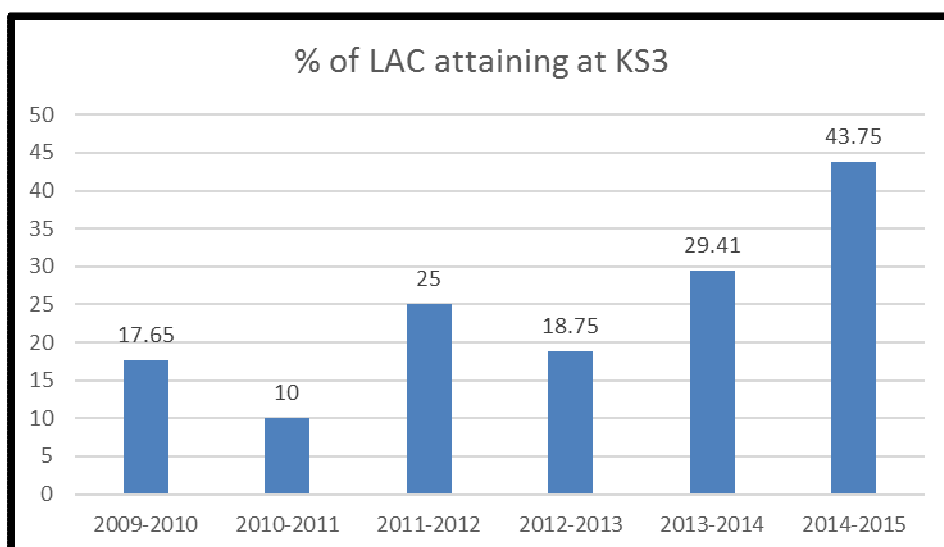
Our monitoring indicates that looked after children in Key Stage 2 may require additional support to achieve their full potential. Only 61.5% achieved the core subject indicator compared to 75% last year. It is hoped that the PDGLAC grant and the investment in Attachment Aware Schools will provide the interventions necessary to improve this in 2015/16.

At Key Stage 2 - 61.5% of LAC achieved the core subject indicator.

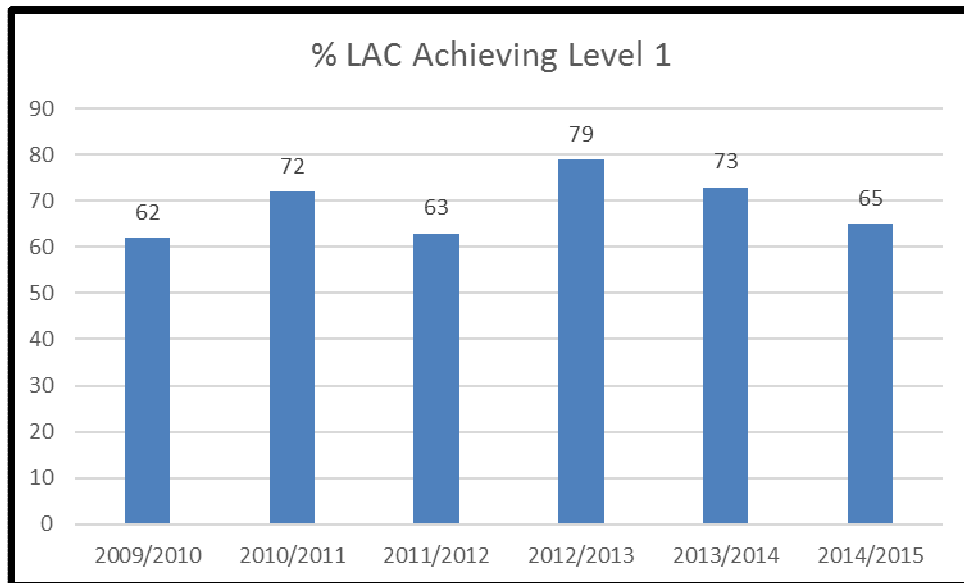


The attainment of looked after children in Key Stage 3 continue to improve. This is an area that was prioritised in 2014 and the Corporate Parenting Team have provided a range of additional educational resources for pupils and support for schools to improve this outcome.

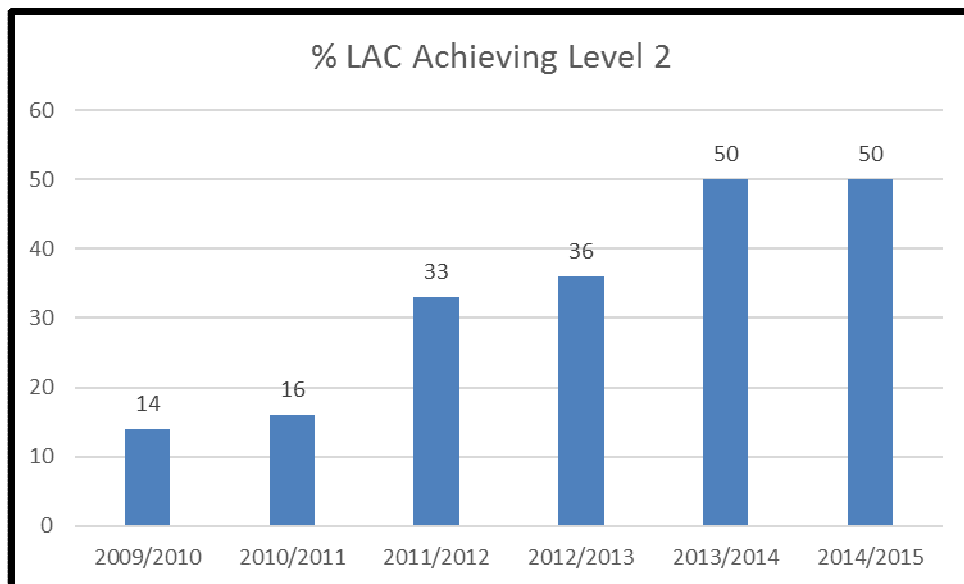
At Key Stage 3- 43% of looked after children achieved the core subject indicator.



% of LAC Pupils achieving Level 1 at GCSE (5 or more grades A*-G)



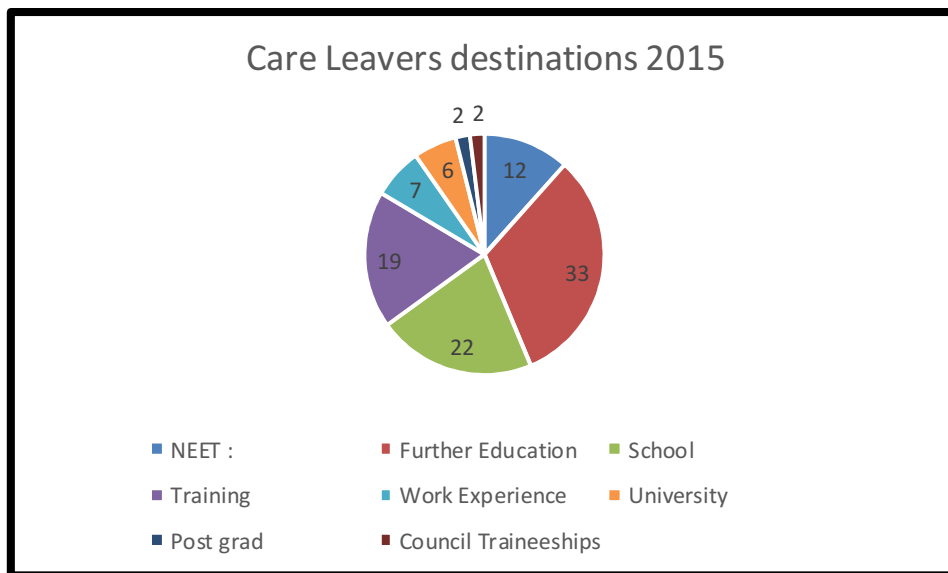
% of LAC Pupils achieving Level 2 at GCSE (5 or more grades A*-C)



b. Ensure every care leaver follows an accredited independent living training programme.

A new accredited training programme has been developed and 58 accredited life-skills modules have been delivered to care leavers by the Personal Advisers. The Personal Advisers focus on developing budgeting skills, practical life skills and emotional resilience as well as helping secure employment and training.

12 Care Leavers were NEET in 2015. Of these 4 were young mothers. Most are engaged in learning and training. It is very positive to see 6 care leavers accessing Higher Education and a further 2 following Post Graduate qualifications. This year the team are developing training courses where young parents can also bring their children in order to re-engage them in learning.



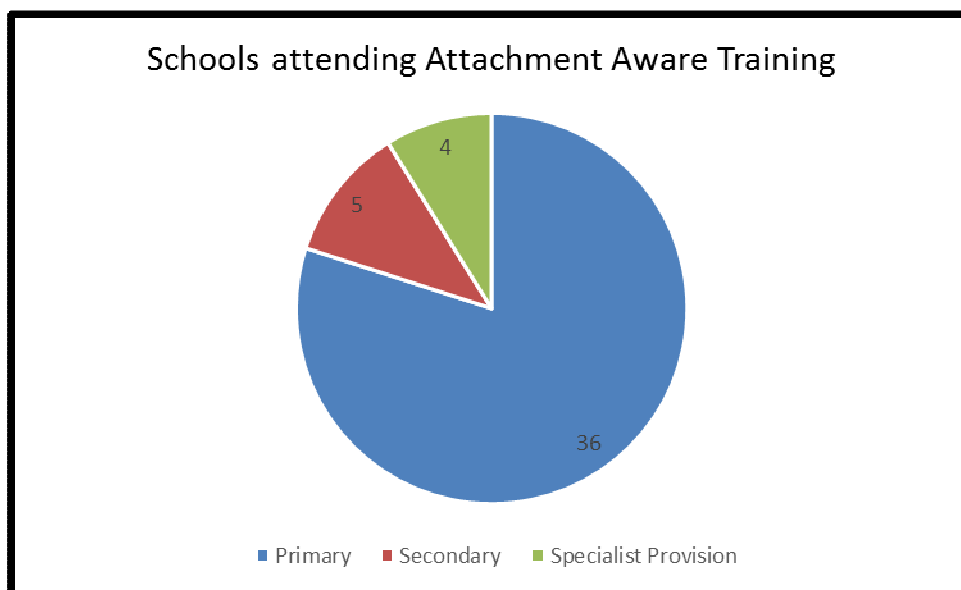
c. Provide training and support for foster carers and schools in order to ensure that they are able to support the development of young people experiencing loss, attachment issues, trauma, abuse and neglect.

There is an annual training programme for foster carers, support groups and 1:1 support available on request. The training and support focuses on meeting the emotional needs of looked after children, dealing with challenging behaviours and supporting their educational attainment.

In addition to this schools have received an enhanced training programme through the LAC Pupil Deprivation Grant. There is a regional LAC Pupil Deprivation Grant plan that provides an annual training programme for schools and governors on Attachment Aware Schools.

Parenting with PACE and Attachment Awareness training is provided to Foster Carers and Adopters.

Schools in Carmarthenshire can work towards Attachment Aware School Status and access intensive training from the Corporate Parenting Team. So far 36 Primary Schools are accessed training, 5 Secondary Schools, 2 Special Schools and the Pupil Referral Units.



- d. Ensure that emotional health support is provided for looked after children and care leavers as and when necessary.**

The Emotional Health Team provides advice and therapeutic support for social workers, foster carers, looked after children, children placed for adoption and care leavers. The team also work closely with schools to offer support and advice for school staff.

The team consists of a Child Psychologist, therapeutic social worker/ counsellor and a thera-play practitioner. This team is supported by a range of support and engagement workers who are able to provide additional support for young people in the community.

Looked after children are also able to access the School Counselling Service provided by Area 43 and Specialist CAMHS services.

The Emotional Health Team sit within the Corporate Parenting Services and every looked after child who is new to care has an emotional health plan. This plan outlines

how the adults around the child can work together to support the child's emotional wellbeing.

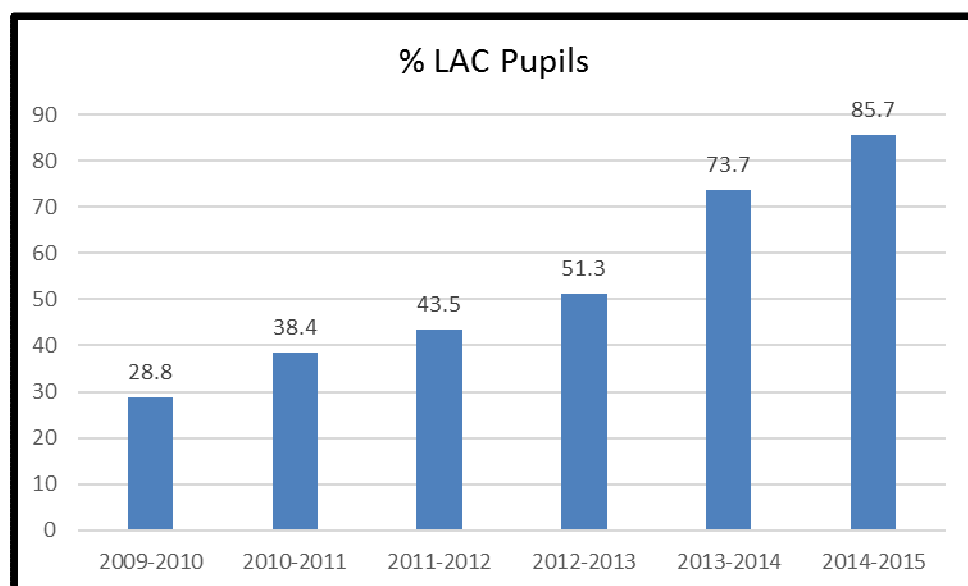
II. Every child to have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities

In order for our looked after children to be active citizens as adults services must work in partnership as Corporate Parents to ensure that they have every opportunity to engage in education and learning.

a. Ensure that every child has a meaningful Personal Education Plan.

The authority has developed a more person centred approach to educational planning for looked after children and this has been acknowledged as best practice by the CSSiW, Estyn and ERW. Most schools are now completing the Personal Education Plans for children. Training and support is provided by the LAC Education Coordinator.

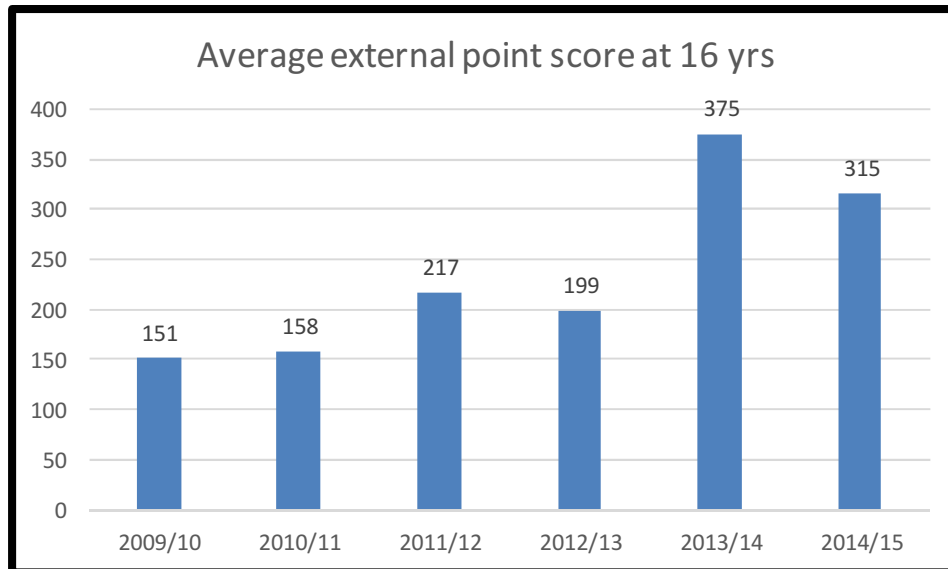
All children have a personal education plan (PEP). 85.7% of children had one within 20 working days in 2014/15. This compares to 73.7% in the previous year.



b. Support every looked after child to leave school with a recognised qualification.

The authority expects every looked after child to reach their full academic potential. Many of our children do this. For some their vulnerability and emotional instability

impacts on learning. Our children are more likely to underachieve if they experience school moves.



c. Monitor and maximise the number of care leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

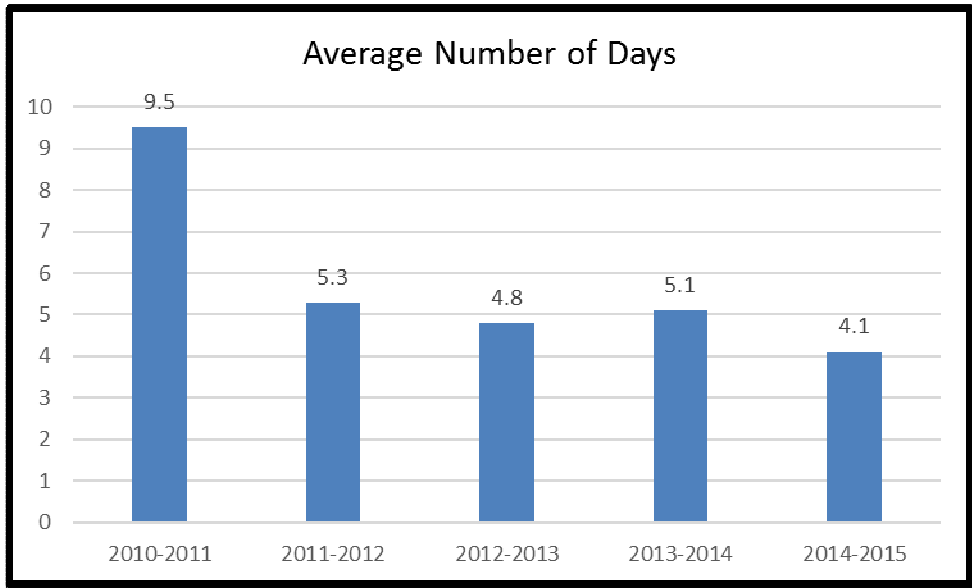
Providing in-house training and traineeships has contributed to significantly reducing the number of care leavers who are NEET. The authority is committed to offering care leavers work experience opportunities and traineeships in order to ensure that our young people are 'work ready'.

The Corporate Parenting Team utilise in-house resources to deliver training programmes for care leavers to ensure that all our young people have every opportunity to find work in these challenging economic times.

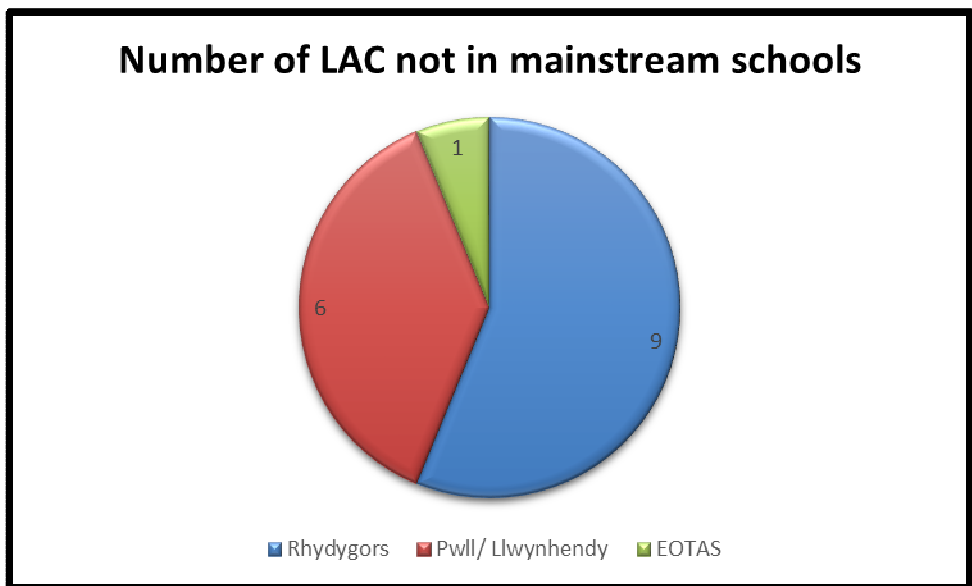
d. Ensure that no looked after child misses out on education due to being excluded.

Every effort is made to provide support, advice and guidance for schools in order to prevent exclusion and maximise engagement with learning. While exclusions have reduced since 2010, and there have been no permanent exclusions, it is still felt that too many of our looked after children are placed in provisions that are not socially inclusive.

Average number of school days missed due to exclusion



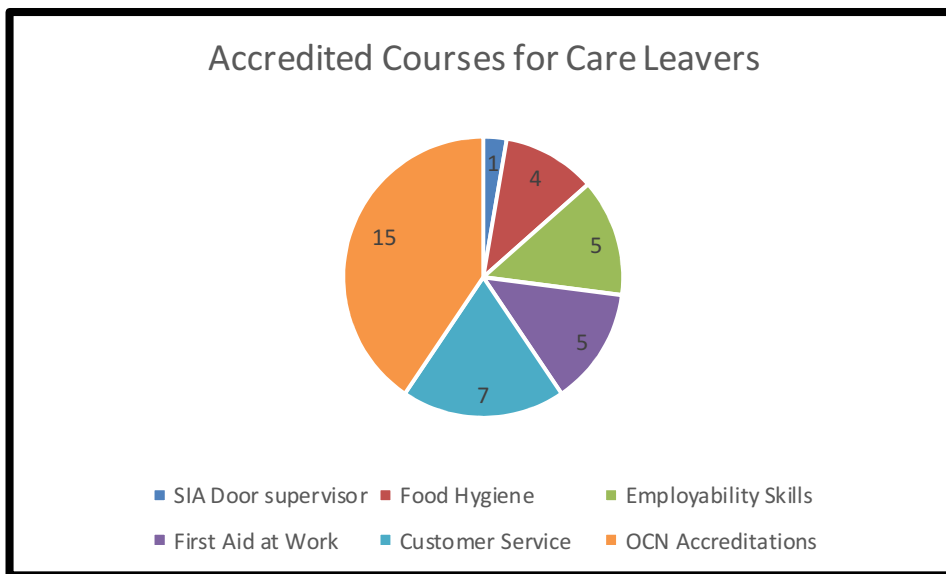
The authority needs to ensure that looked after children remain in mainstream schools and that schools are supported to appropriately meet their emotional and behavioural needs through the Attachment Aware Schools programme. Schools that are nurturing environments where looked after children thrive will also be positive environments for many vulnerable learners.



- e. That every care leaver receives appropriate support for employment, education and training via their Pathway Plans.

100% of care leavers have Pathway Plans. Consultation is taking place to ensure that these are more person centred and meaningful for the young person. Care Leavers are supported into employment, education and training. When training courses or traineeships aren't available elsewhere, the Corporate Parenting Team arrange and deliver these based on assessed needs of young people.

In 2015 the team delivered a range of additional accredited course for Care Leavers in order to support their access to employment.



III. Every child to have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities

- a. Providing one annual event to ensure that foster carers, looked after children and care leavers are aware of services available to support them.

Over 200 people attended the annual Ffos Las event to celebrate the successes of looked after children and care leavers. 136 of these were children and young people.

IV. Children are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised

Securing the voice of the child, being person centred and building on a young person's strengths underpins all our work with looked after children.

- a. Every looked after child and care leaver to be aware of advocacy and participation.

The Independent Reviewing Service ensures that every looked after child is aware of advocacy services. 53% of care leavers have participated in an evaluation of the services they receive. All looked after children are consulted with as part of their care planning and review processes.

b. Encourage active engagement in a participation programme.

The Independent Reviewing Service consult with all looked after children as part of their care plan review. 53% of care leavers have participated in a questionnaire. Voices From Care (charity) meet regularly with looked after children and young people and consult with them on the quality of services they receive. Young people have told us that they would like simpler plans that are easier to understand and some help and support in relation to parenting skills. The department are working towards developing these in 2016.

c. Provide training for teachers, social workers, foster carers, youth workers and related professionals on children's rights and corporate parenting.

There is an annual training programme in place.

d. Provide information for looked after children and care leavers on the CCC website

The information for the website is complete and it should be on the council website shortly.

e. Ensure looked after children and care leavers have a say in the plans made for them.

Children and care leavers have a say in the care plans for them and their personal education plans. The format and process of plans for children is being reviewed to ensure that they are more person centred and easier for children to understand. Looked after children and care leavers are being consulted with as to how they can contribute more proactively to their plans.

f. Ensure looked after children and care leavers contribute to interview panels for relevant staff being appointed.

Young people have accessed training as 'Young Commissioners' and interview training and are part of the commissioning and interview processes for children's services.

g. Ensure the views of looked after children and care leavers on the service they receive is shared with Elected Members.

Training is planned for elected members and young people are contributing to this training. Voices From Care are working with children to develop the skills to be part

of Attachment Aware School reviews and Corporate Parenting Panel. Visits of Elected Members to children's groups have been arranged and Elected Members attended the annual Celebrating Success Day for looked after children.

V. Every child to have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing

Most children reside with foster carers. Care Leavers access Supported Lodgings and Supported Accommodation. Despite the preparation provided in relation to independent living some young people still experience difficulty.

In relation to lining in a community that is conducive to emotional wellbeing, some accommodation provision is not in the most appropriate geographical areas.

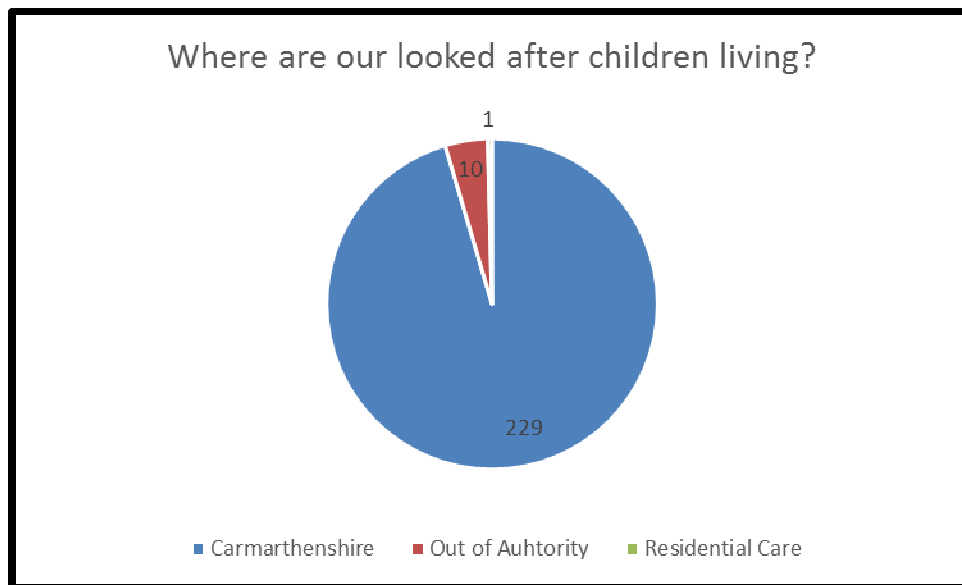
Some of our young people have involvement with the police, community services and schools that does not take into consideration their vulnerability and lack of parental support.

There is further work necessary in ensuring that all partners are aware of the vulnerability of looked after children and care leavers and understand how to safeguard and protect them.

- a. Ensure every looked after child is accommodated with foster carers in Carmarthenshire.

Out of the 240 looked after children on 31st March 2015 229 children were accommodated with foster carers or relatives in Carmarthenshire. 1 was in a specialist children’s home, 6 were living with their families in England and 4 were with Foster Carers bordering Carmarthenshire.

Graph 13: Accommodation type for looked after children



There is ongoing work with the Housing Department and Supporting People to ensure that there are appropriate accommodation and support available for those young people leaving care. Many care leavers value the provision of Supported Lodgings, in which they can live with a family and benefit from the additional care that this can provide and these have been expanded over the last year.

‘When I am ready’ guidance from Welsh Government outlines the plans that Corporate Parents must implement to ensure that looked after children are not entering independent living when they are not ready to do so.

In supporting young people in the community there is a need to work collaboratively as Corporate Parents with housing providers, community services and the police in order to ensure that our young people receive the support that they need.

VI. Looked after children and care leavers are not disadvantaged by poverty

Ensuring children leave school with the appropriate qualifications for employment and training is essential in addressing poverty.

The quality, location and provision of accommodation is also a critical factor.

- a.** Provide financial support for care leavers to be in appropriate accommodation.

The authority is responsible for ensuring that care leavers reside in appropriate accommodation. Most care leavers feel that they are in appropriate accommodation but a small number are. In collaboration with the Housing Department options for shared housing are being explored. Many young people will reside in shared housing and it is more cost effective to share living costs with other young people.

Young people have identified a need for outreach support when they first move to independence. They have also indicated that they would welcome the option to return to a higher level of support should independent accommodation fail.

5. Areas for Future Improvement 2016/17

There are a number of areas that the authority needs to improve on moving forward. Looked after children and care leavers need to be a priority for all departments across the Council and there needs to be shared commitment to improving outcomes for these children.

Having higher aspirations for social and academic inclusion and striving to break the cycle of abuse, neglect, poverty and deprivation is beneficial for the individual, local authority and communities.

- Improved collaboration of early intervention and social inclusion agendas with Housing, Leisure Services and Communities First is required to maximise the impact of services and ensure targeted interventions.
- Improved information sharing, training and collaboration with public protection and community services to ensure that our children and young people are appropriately safeguarded and protected.
- Further training and support for Schools, Governors and Education staff in the best methods of supporting children who are looked after will contribute to further improving their educational attainment and social inclusion. More schools to engage in Attachment Aware practice. More Governors monitoring the outcomes of looked after children.

- A consistent, therapeutic approach to the emotional and behavioural management of looked after children in schools and specialist behaviour settings would ensure that fewer looked after children are excluded and miss out unnecessarily on education.
- In order to be healthy every child to have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities and the strategy outlines the following targets in this area which needs to be developed further given some of the budgetary constraints on the leisure services.
 - a. Every foster family to have a free leisure saver card.
 - b. Every foster family to have access to free swimming.
 - c. Every care leaver to have a free leisure saver card.
 - d. Every care leaver to have access to free gym membership.
 - e. Promoting engagement in local activities.

6. Concluding Comments

The Corporate Parenting Strategy emphasises the need for every department across the council to work collaboratively in order to meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Panel oversees the targets set and is required to satisfy itself that we are doing all that a reasonable, responsible parent would do for our looked after children and care leavers.

It is clear from the data provided that over the last few years outcomes for looked after children and care leavers have improved: particularly in the areas of improving academic attainment, reducing NEET, completing PEPS and engaging young people. But there are still improvements that can be made through ensuring that corporate parenting is on the agenda for every department within the council and that departments work together on this priority area.

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

School Attendance

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- In the ESTYN inspection of the authority's education services in March 2012, Carmarthenshire was rated as 'Good' with 'Good' prospects for improvement. However, attendance in schools was judged to require improvement. Concerns included:

"When compared to similar schools on the free-school-meals benchmarks attendance is below average in primary and well below average in secondary."

'Attendance has not improved quickly enough in either primary or secondary schools. When compared to similar schools on the free-school-meal benchmarks in 2011 too many primary schools are in the bottom 25% and more than half are below average.'

'In secondary schools nearly three-quarters of schools are below average and nearly one half are in the bottom 25%.'

One of the recommendations from the inspection was to: **(R2) Improve attendance in primary and secondary schools.**

- That the Committee recognises the improved level of attendance in 2014/15 in the majority of schools in Carmarthenshire and notes the current support provided by the Education Welfare Service.

Reasons:

- To provide an opportunity for Members to keep school attendance under close review and to continue to inform future policy and practice.
- To review the progress made in respect of improving school attendance and to consider the views of elected members in respect of this important issue.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans	Head of Education Services	01267 246450 edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Authors: Gareth Morgans		
Bethan T. James	Service Manager – Corporate Parenting	01267 246534 btbjames@sirgar.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th APRIL 2016

School Attendance

Carmarthenshire County Council and its schools continue to emphasise the importance of school attendance and strive to increase awareness that regular school attendance benefits pupils in terms of attainment, wellbeing and life opportunities. The statistical links between attendance and achievement are very strong.

In response to the 2012 ESTYN recommendation officers, in partnership with Head teachers, agreed certain actions to address the attendance challenge. The Local Authority has asked all head teachers to monitor school attendance ensuring that the registers are kept fully up to date and that the correct codes are used.

While the parent is primarily responsible for ensuring their child attends their registered school regularly, where school attendance problems occur, the key to successfully resolving these problems is engaging the child through collaborative working between the parent, the school and the Local Authority. It is important to monitor absences closely and regularly so that any patterns of non-attendance are identified and early action is taken to address the underlying causes. Attendance problems are often a symptom of some underlying cause.

ESTYN's Annual Report for 2014-2015, published in January 2016, states the following in respect of attendance:

Attendance rates in both primary and secondary schools continue to improve well. Over the last five years, attendance has increased in primary and secondary schools by 1.6 percentage points and 2.5 percentage points respectively. These increases mean that pupils attended school on average between approximately three and four days more in 2014-2015 than they did in 2010-2011.

This reflects the Carmarthenshire position.

Priorities for 2016/17

- Work closely with schools to maintain current attendance levels and work with the schools performing below their benchmark in order to secure further improvements.

- Work more closely with Challenge Advisors to support schools in meeting their identified attendance targets.
- Continue to build upon and extend the RAP delivery and group work with schools.
- Implement the revised Code of Conduct for Fixed Penalty Notices.
- Re-draft School Attendance leaflets based on recent changes.
- Raise further awareness with employers and performance companies in relation to child employment and performance regulations.
- The Education Welfare Service will develop clear information for professionals and families on their role and legal responsibilities in line with the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act.
- Develop standardised feedback forms for schools, pupils and families on the involvement of the Service.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **Gareth Morgans** **Chief Education Officer**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE

2. Legal

The legal requirements for school attendance are set out in the Educational Act 1996, Children Act 1989; Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Registration Regulations. Under s7, Education Act 1996, parents have a legal duty to ensure their children receive ***efficient full time education that is suitable to their children’s age, ability and aptitude, whether by regular attendance at school or otherwise.*** Where there is sufficient evidence that parents are not fulfilling this legal duty, court proceedings may be instituted under Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996.

The Education (Pupil registration) (Wales) Regulations 2010, identify the duty schools have to ensure that clear and efficient registration practices are in place, that are accessible to the Local Authority for monitoring purposes, as required. A school register is a legal document that may be required to be presented as court evidence in Local Authority prosecutions for non-attendance. It is an offence for schools not to maintain accurate registers.

Under section 437 of the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that a child for whom they are responsible is receiving a suitable education whether by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Section 436A of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 which requires that Local Authorities must make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a ‘suitable education’ It is the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that parents and schools carry out their responsibilities and this duty is devolved to the Attendance and Wellbeing Service.

The Education (Penalty Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2013 requires that all LAs develop a Code of Conduct that defines the criteria for the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The regulations empower head teachers to issue penalty notices to parents.

3. Finance

Resources will need to be secured to improve attendance (e.g. training). This will be found from within current budgets.

4. ICT

Schools in Carmarthenshire are required to use electronic registration systems at morning and afternoon sessions and individual teaching sessions where appropriate. Schools therefore need access to an appropriate ICT infrastructure in every classroom.

6. Staffing Implications

The Education Welfare Service has been enhanced and remodelled in order that it becomes a more specialised and targeted service. The current staffing needs to be maintained to ensure further [progress and service development.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer

1. Local Member(s) – N/A

2. Community / Town Council – N/A

3. Relevant Partners – Schools are advised of attendance progress.

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh Government Inclusion and Pupil Support Guidance (Guidance document no: 203/2016, date of issue: March 2016)	Cymraeg http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/160318-inclusion-and-pupil-support-cy.pdf English http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/160318-inclusion-and-pupil-support-en.pdf

**DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION &
CHILDREN**

**Our Vision ...is a community where children are
safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are
supported to achieve their full educational
potential.**

**SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
UPDATE**

March 2016



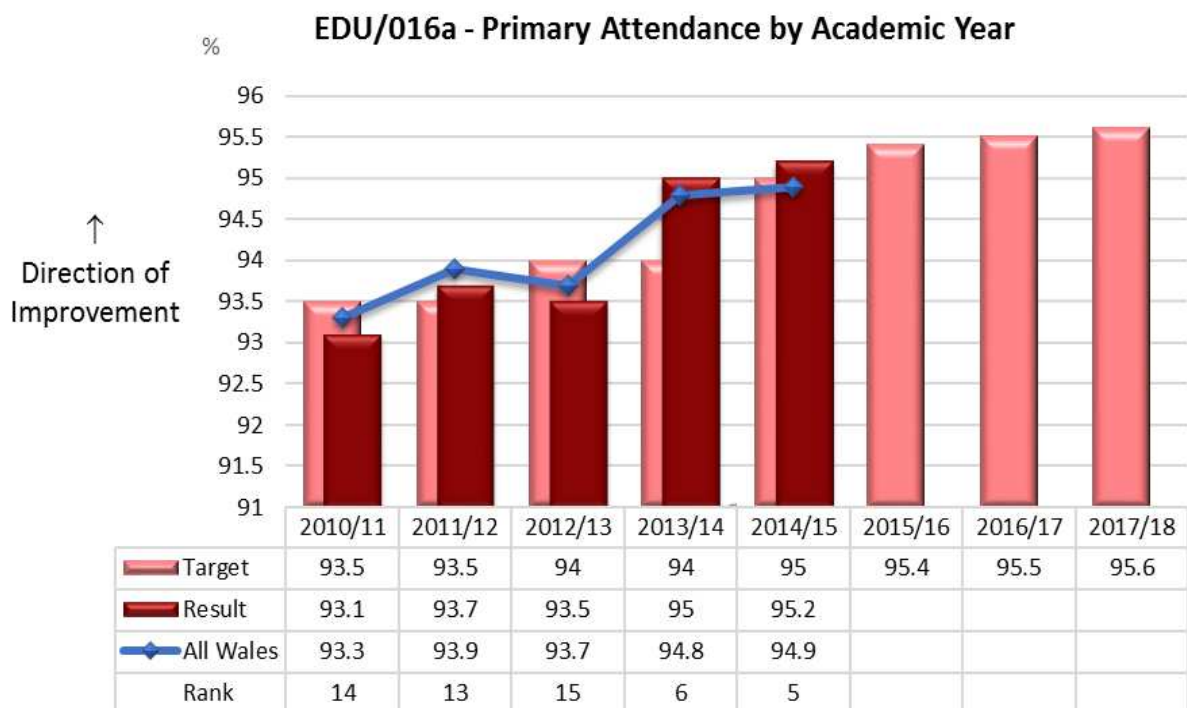
**Safeguarding Children and
Improving Education Standards for All**

ATTENDANCE DATA



Attendance in Primary Schools

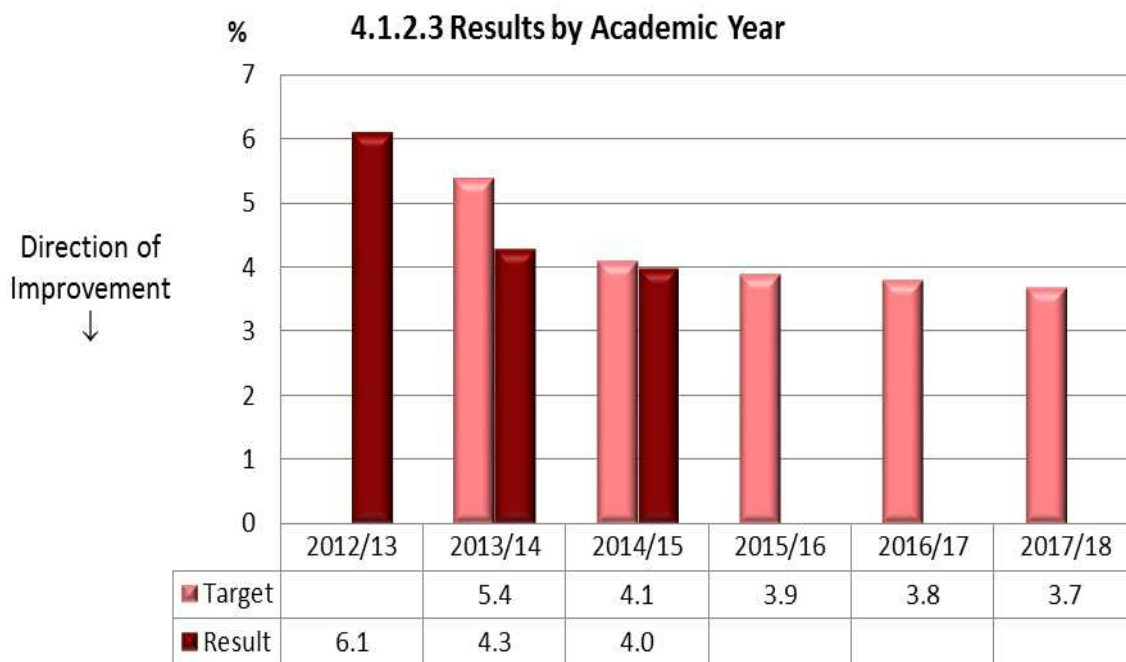
- Attendance in primary schools in Carmarthenshire had been increasing steadily for several years.
- Attendance has increased significantly in the last two years.
- In 2014-15 our Primary schools achieved **95.2%** overall attendance (an improvement of 0.2%)
- Carmarthenshire is ranked 5th in Wales (improving from 15th in 2012/13), 0.6% adrift of the best performing Welsh LA, Monmouthshire (95.8%)



Carmarthenshire as compared to other Local Authorities

Year	All Wales Primary Attendance	Carmarthenshire Primary Attendance	Carmarthenshire Position
2011/12	93.9%	93.7%	13
2012/13	93.7%	93.5%	15
2013/14	94.8%	95%	6
2014/15	94.9%	95.2%	5

- Authorised absence from Primary Schools has reduced from at **6.1%** in 2012-13 to **4.0%** in 2014/15 which is below the Welsh average of 4.1%



- Carmarthenshire Primary Schools' quartile for attendance within their Free School Meals benchmark group has been improving over the last three years.
- The % of schools in the 1st quartile has increased by 19% whilst the % in the 4th quartile has decreased by 20%.

% of Primary schools in each Quartile for last three years

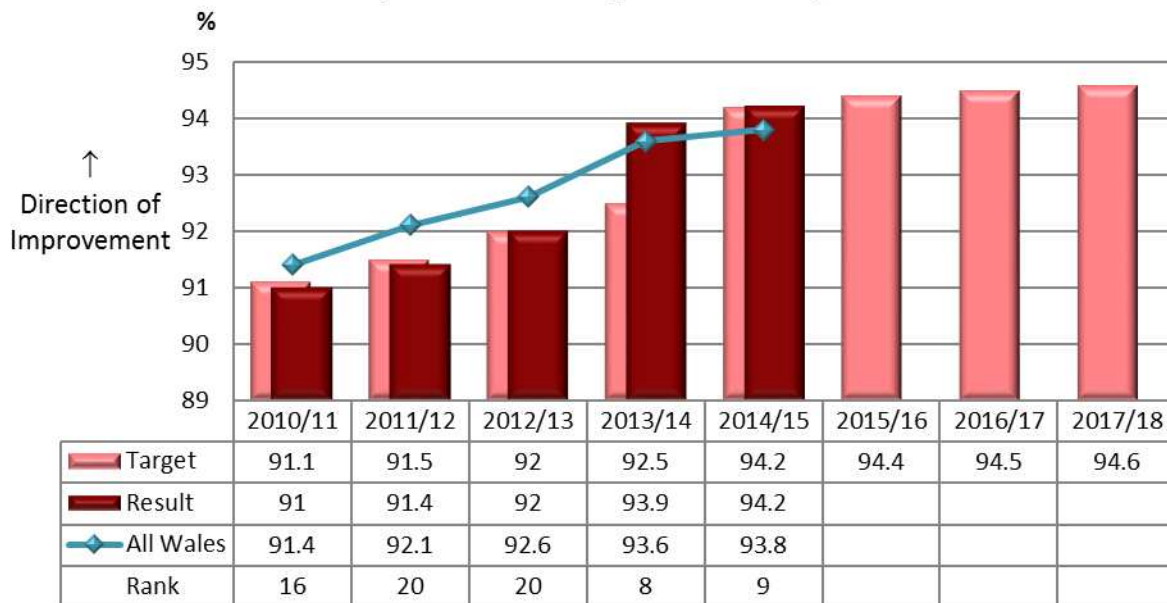
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Quartile 1	16%	30%	35%
Quartile 2	24%	18%	21%
Quartile 3	17%	22%	22%
Quartile 4	43%	29%	23%

- To help schools to maintain a focus on attendance, the authority is analysing data for every primary school on a termly basis, extracting attendance information entered into School Management Information Systems by schools.

Attendance in Secondary Schools

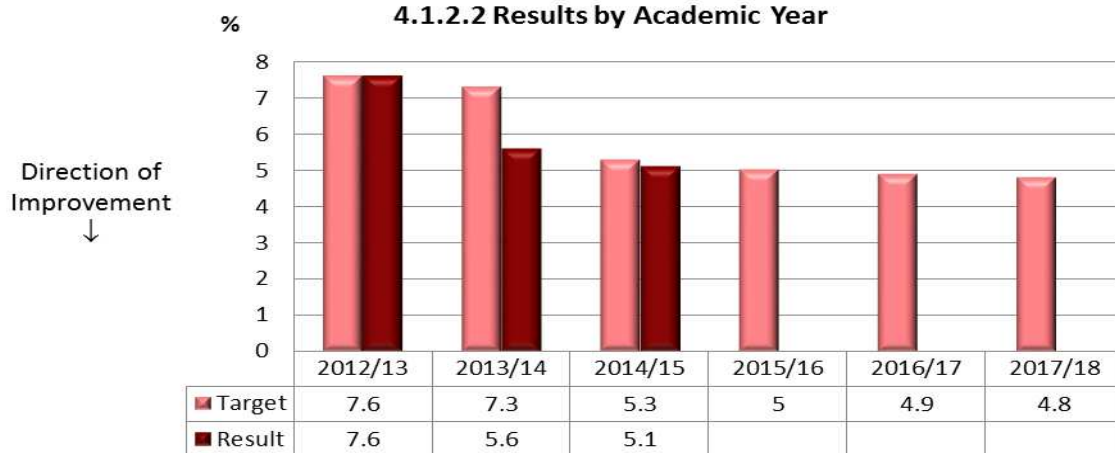
- Attendance in Carmarthenshire's secondary schools has been improving steadily for several years, and has been above the Welsh average for the last two.
- In 2014-15 our Secondary schools achieved **94.2%** overall attendance (an improvement of 0.3%)
- Carmarthenshire is ranked 9th in Wales (improving from 20th two years ago), 0.5% adrift of the best performing Welsh LA, Vale of Glamorgan (94.7%)

EDU/016b - Secondary Attendance by Academic Year



- Authorised absence which at **7.6%** in 2012-13, was the highest in Wales, has reduced to **5.3%** which is still higher than the Welsh average of 4.9%, whilst unauthorised, at 0.8%, remains one of the lowest in Wales

4.1.2.2 Results by Academic Year

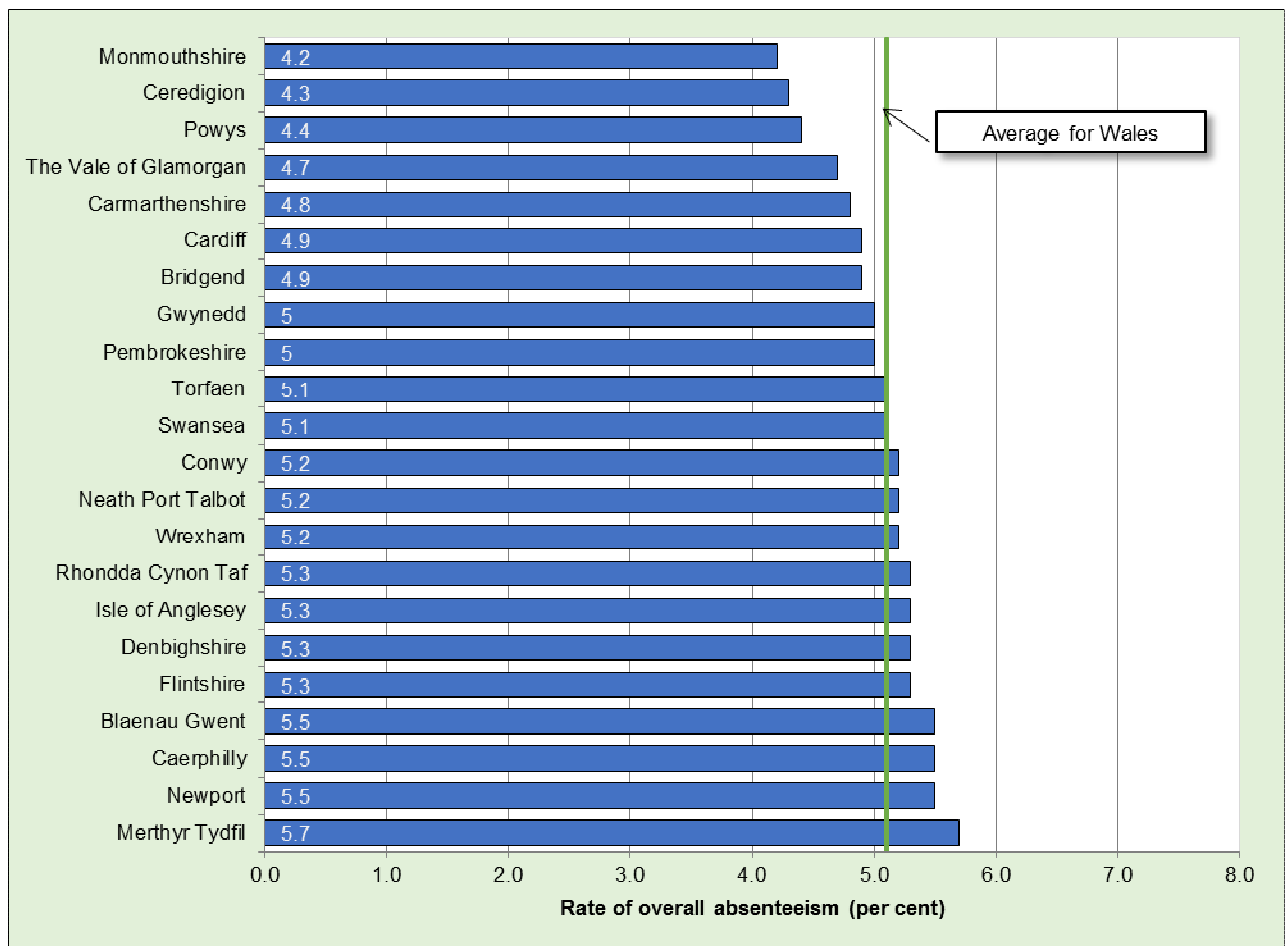


- Carmarthenshire Secondary schools quartile performance for attendance within their Free School Meals benchmark group has been improving over the last three years.
- For 2014-15 8 out of 12 schools performed at or above their expected benchmark with 6 schools in the 1st and 2nd quartile as compared to 1 school in 2012-13

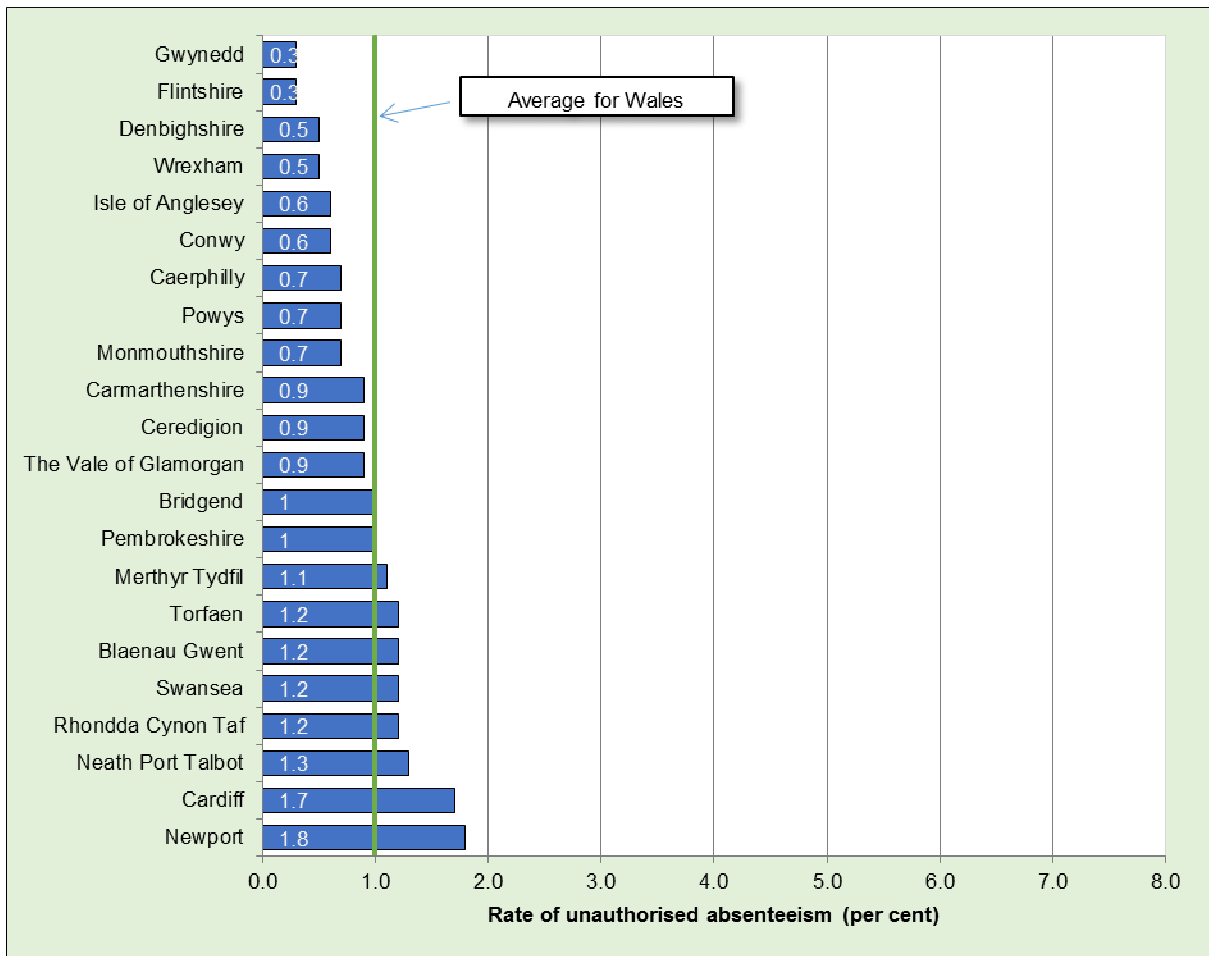
Current FSM Band		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		
		% of half-day sessions attended	Quartile	% of half-day sessions attended	Quartile	% of half-day sessions attended	Quartile	
1	Bro Myrddin	93.0	4	95.3	1	95.5	1	↔
1	Dyffryn Taf	92.4	4	95.1	2	95.3	1	↑
1	Strade	94.1	3	94.7	3	95.0	2	↑
2	Maes Y Gwendraeth	91.5	4	94.0	3	94.5	2	↑
2	Queen Elizabeth High	92.6	4	93.6	4	94.0	3	↑
2	Emlyn	92.3	4	93.8	4	93.9	4	↔
2	Bro Dinefwr	90.5	4	93.7	4	93.2	4	↔
3	Dyffryn Aman	91.4	4	93.3	3	93.7	3	↔
3	Bryngwyn School	91.5	4	93.7	2	93.9	3	↓
3	St John Lloyd	92.2	3	93.5	3	94.0	3	↔
4	Glan-y-Mor	90.7	4	93.2	2	94.1	1	↑
4	Coedcae	92.2	1	93.1	2	93.6	2	↔

- To support schools to maintain a focus on attendance, the authority is analysing data for every secondary school on a half-termly basis, extracting attendance information entered into School Management Information Systems by schools
- Further analysis of the attendance code data highlighted the following general messages:
 - Overall attendance levels have **improved** from **93.9%** in 2013/14 to **94.2%**- an improvement of 0.3% (this is equivalent to the target for 2014/15).
 - 11 schools have **improved** their attendance levels from academic year 2013/14 (ranging from 0.1% to 0.8%); 1 school has **declined** (by 0.5%)
 - Authorised absence has **improved** from 5.6% in 2013/14 to **5.1%** (an improvement of 0.5%).
 - All schools have **improved** their authorised absence levels (ranging from 4.2% to 5.9%, last year it was 4.6% to 6.1%).
 - Unauthorised absence rate has **declined** from 0.5% to 0.7%, but is still one of the best in Wales when compared with 2013/14 data.
 - 5 schools have seen their unauthorised absence levels decline as compared to 2013/14.

- Illness and medical/dental appointments (codes **I** and **M**) account for **4.7%** (140,834 sessions) of a total of **5.1%** authorised absences.
- Unauthorised absence has increased from 0.5% (end of year 2013/14) to **0.7%**:
 - **G** (family holiday not agreed) is 0.15% (4,547 sessions)
 - **O** (other unauthorised) is 0.58% (17,505 sessions)
 - **U** (arrived after register closed) is 0.01% (177 sessions)
- Code **N** (no reason for absence yet provided) has decreased from end of year 2013/14 by 51 sessions. There are now 24 sessions instead of 75 (Only 2 schools have code **N**: Dyffryn Aman and QE High).
- The average across schools using code **L** (late but arrived before register closed) has increased from 1.29% (end of 2013/14) to 1.49%, now a range from 0.34% to 3.09%, which suggests different approaches may still be used



Overall absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and special schools, by local authority, 2014/15



Unauthorised absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age in all maintained primary and special schools, by local authority, 2014/15



Education Welfare Service (EWS) Update

1. Key Facts

- Only schools can refer into the Education Welfare Service.
- Schools can refer every pupil with a school attendance level of less than 85% where the main cause is unauthorised absence.
- The referral process is electronic/on-line which helps the Education Welfare Service track every referral, collate the data and provide termly monitoring.
- The Team consists of-
 - 1 Team Manager
 - 1 Senior Social Work Practitioner
 - 4 Social Workers: Schools
 - 8.5 Family Engagement Workers.

This service structure enables the Education Welfare Service to offer a tiered approach to supporting families and addressing school attendance issues.

The EWS takes a **Family Engagement** model of intervention. It works intensively with the family to overcome their difficulties in order to engage more fully in the parenting and education of their children.

The Service also provides:

- **Intensive Family Engagement Worker** support and parenting support for families referred by schools.
- **Intensive Social Worker Schools** support for families referred by schools where there are concerns that the lack of education is indicative of neglect but families do not meet the threshold of social services.
- **RAP** (Regular Attendance and Punctuality) workshops for every Year 6 Class in every Primary School in Carmarthenshire.
- **Intensive family and child support** over school holidays to aid transition and keep in touch.
- **Family group work** over school holidays to support good attitudes to school attendance.
- **Play and Chat** Workshops for parents at Family Centres and ICC's addressing school attendance issues.
- **Community information sharing and awareness raising** for Education Starts at Home (Welsh Government programme).
- **Group work** in Secondary and Primary schools for children with poor attendance, highlighting issues and consequences.
- **Issuing certificates** for good attendance to pupils at school at the request of schools and attending prize evenings.
- **Direct intensive parenting work** with families referred by schools to improve parenting capacity.

- **TAF working and key-working** to ensure families are linked in with community services to support them.
- **Chaperone training, child performance licensing and monitoring of child performance agencies** (as directed by Welsh Government).
- **Child employment licensing**, monitoring and training for child employers (as directed by Welsh Government).
- **Prosecution** of parents who fail to engage with improving their child's attendance as defined by the Education Act 2006.
- **Initial Social Work Assessments** for families referred by schools where there are concerns that the lack of education is indicative of neglect.

2. Service Delivery

All schools have named member of staff to link with and provide a consistent service for schools and families. There is also a 0.5 Family Engagement Worker post that provides flexible cover within the team depending on the needs of schools.

Across the County the service is distributed as follows:

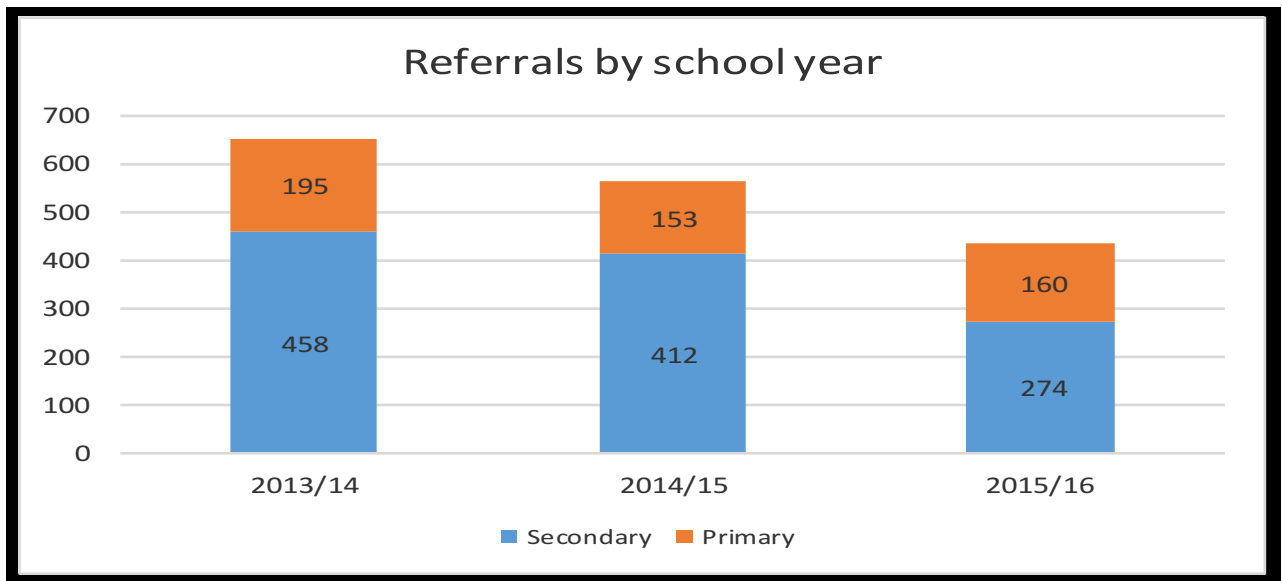
AREA	Carmarthen/East	Dinefwr	Llanelli East	Llanelli West
Schools	QE High Dyffryn Taf Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn Feeder Primary Schools	Amman Valley Ysgol Bro Dinefwr Feeder Primary Schools	Coedcae Bryngwyn St John Lloyd Feeder Primary Schools	Glan y Mor Bro Myrddin Ysgol Strade Maes y Gwendraeth Feeder Primary Schools
Social Worker: Schools	Darren Simpson	Anwen Barker	Emma Owen	Hannah Morgan
Family Engagement Workers	Kathryn M Davies Sarah John	Antonia Delli-Bovi Simon Beecher	Jen Jones Kathryn Davies Debbie Philips	Phil Jones Debbie Phillips

3. Referrals to the Education Welfare Service

Referrals to the Education Welfare Service are electronic and the case management system is on *Carefirst*. This enables the Service to track all referrals and provide monitoring and oversight of the number of referrals.

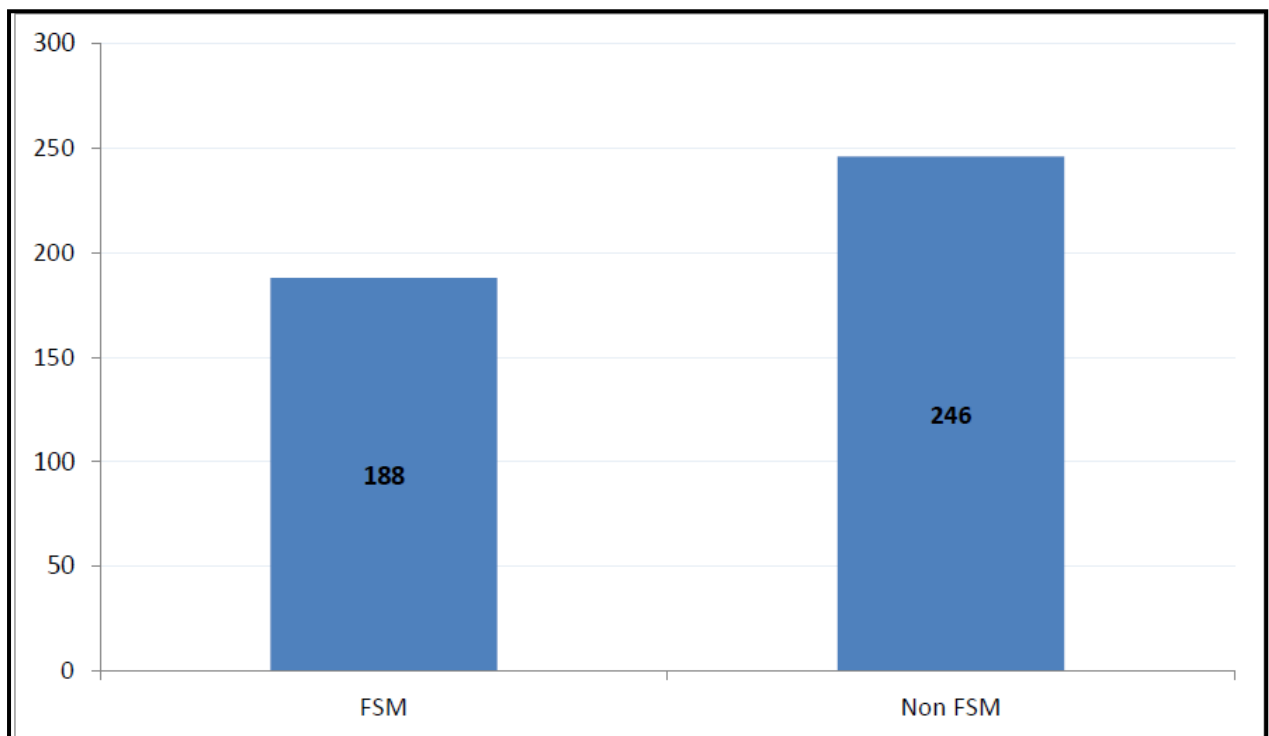
In the 2013/14 academic year there were 195 children referred to the service by Primary Schools and 458 by Secondary Schools. In 2014/15 this decreased for both. Referrals to the Service for this academic year (2015/16) demonstrates an increase in referrals from Primary Schools while referrals from Secondary Schools appears to be similar to last year. The increase in referrals from Primary is pleasing to note as the Service has pro-actively

engaged with all Year 6 Primary classes and concentrates, wherever possible, on early intervention.

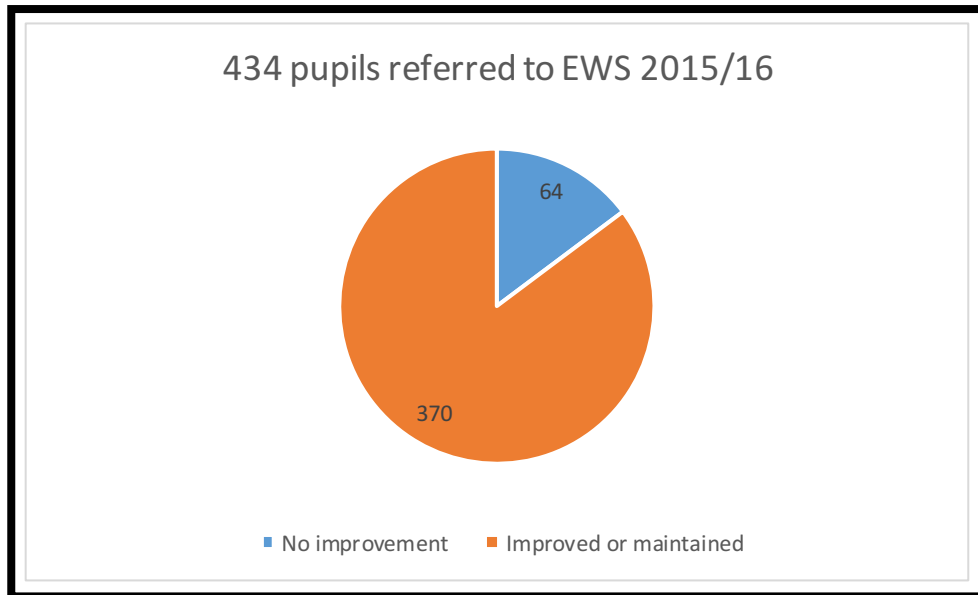


**NB: data for 2015/16 is from September 2015 to end of March 2016 (2 terms).*

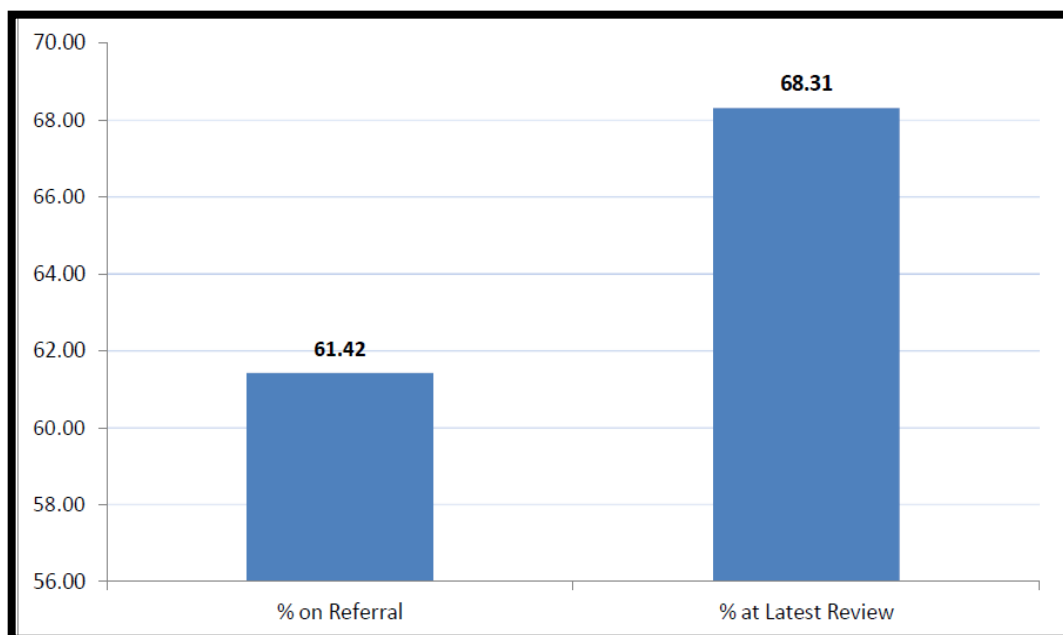
Of those pupils referred 2015/16 188 were free school meal pupils and 246 were not.



Of the 434 pupils referred so far this academic year school attendance has improved or been maintained for 370 of them. For 64 pupils their school attendance has continued to reduce.



For this academic year (2015/16) the average % pupil attendance on referral to the Service was 61.42%. At the latest review the average pupil attendance was 68.31% which is an improvement of 6.89% on average.



The Service records the attendance rate of every pupil referred and meets regularly with schools to provide feedback on interventions and progress.

On the whole the Service is well received in schools and it is evident that the intervention of the Service promotes re-engagement and increased school attendance.

However, our monitoring system highlights that there does not appear to be a consistent approach of referring into the Education Welfare Service. While there are some schools who make good use of the Education Welfare Service some schools do not use the service as **frequently** or as **promptly** as they could.

Pupils with attendance of less than 85% can be referred to the Service. The following chart A indicates that to date this academic year 261 pupils referred into the Service had attendance of less than 69%. 37 of these pupils had attendance of less than 30%.

Chart A: Number of referrals to EWS by % attendance (Sept 2015- March 2015)

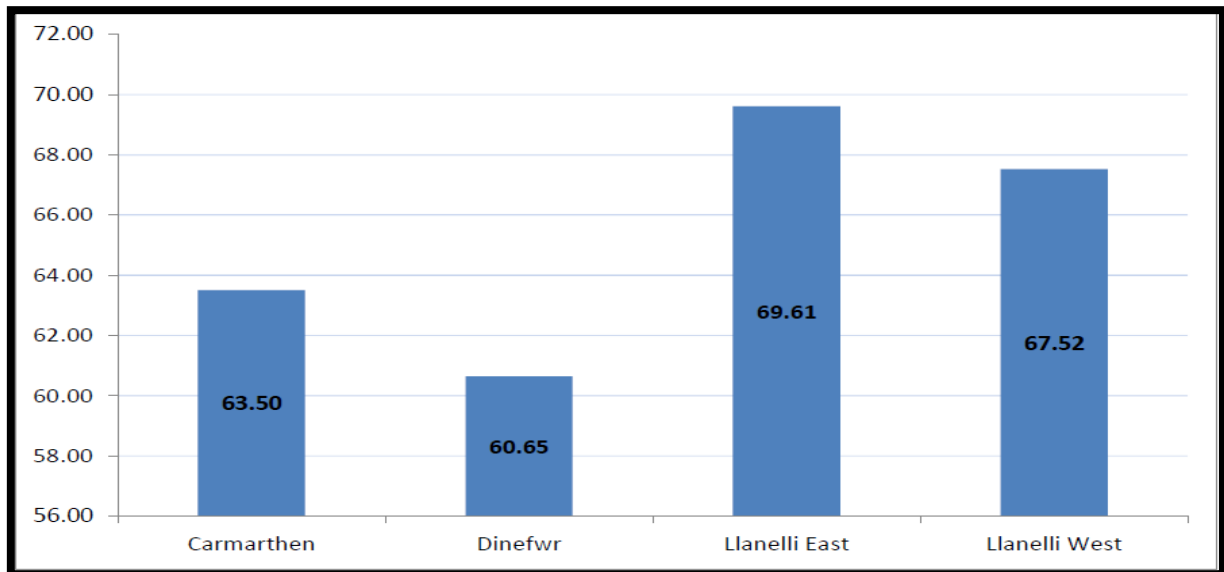
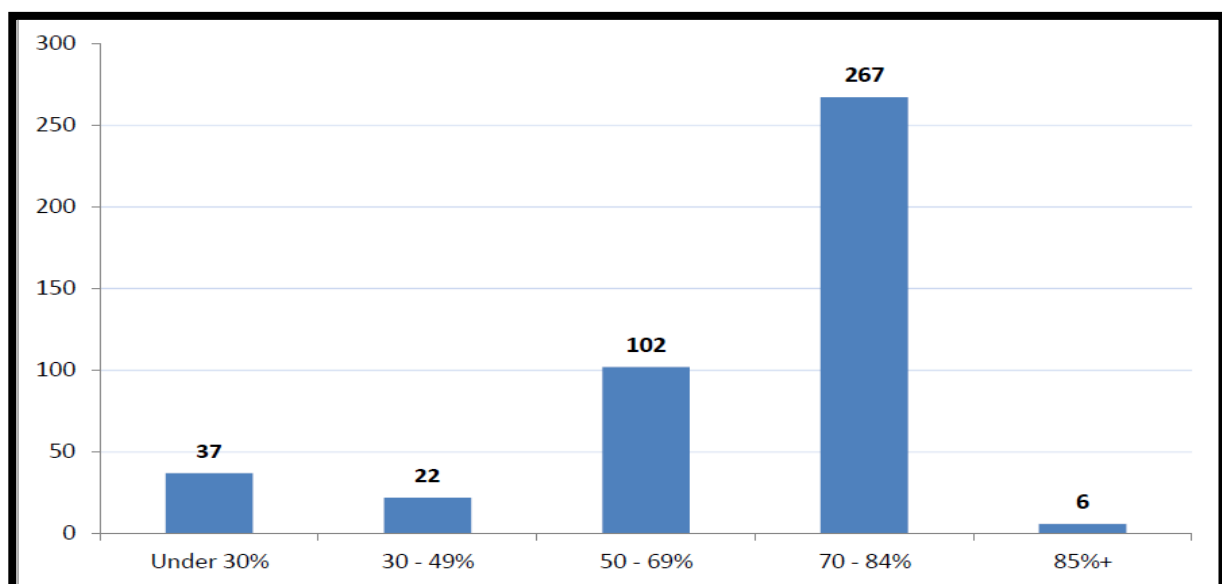


Chart B highlights that across the County schools often wait far too long before referring pupils to the service. The average pupil attendance % of pupils referred differs quite significantly from school to school.

Chart B: Average School Attendance level on referral into EWS by geographical area (Sept 2015-March 2015)



4. Child Performance and Child Employment

The Education Welfare Service oversees Child performance licensing and chaperone licensing and training, in line with revised guidance: The Children (Performances and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and “Keeping Young Performers Safe” (Welsh Government 2015). The Education Welfare Service has reviewed the Local Authority’s licensing processes, in line with the updated guidance, and has developed and implemented a programme of training for licensed chaperones to ensure that the requirements of the new regulations are met. In addition, the service has provided direct support to a number of local performance companies to ensure that they are compliant with the new requirements.

Further to this, Child Employment Licensing falls under the remit of the Education Welfare service. This involves overseeing the issuing of work permits for children, in line with statutory guidance and providing advice and direct support to local businesses to ensure that they comply with the regulations.

5. Fixed Penalty Notices

The Welsh Government (WG) Education (Penalty Notice)(Wales) Regulations 2013 states that Local Authorities (LAs) are required by law to adhere to the Education Act 1996 section 444 to include penalty notices as one of the interventions to promote better school attendance.

Across Wales there have been successful legal challenges to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Fines to parents who take their children on holidays during term time.

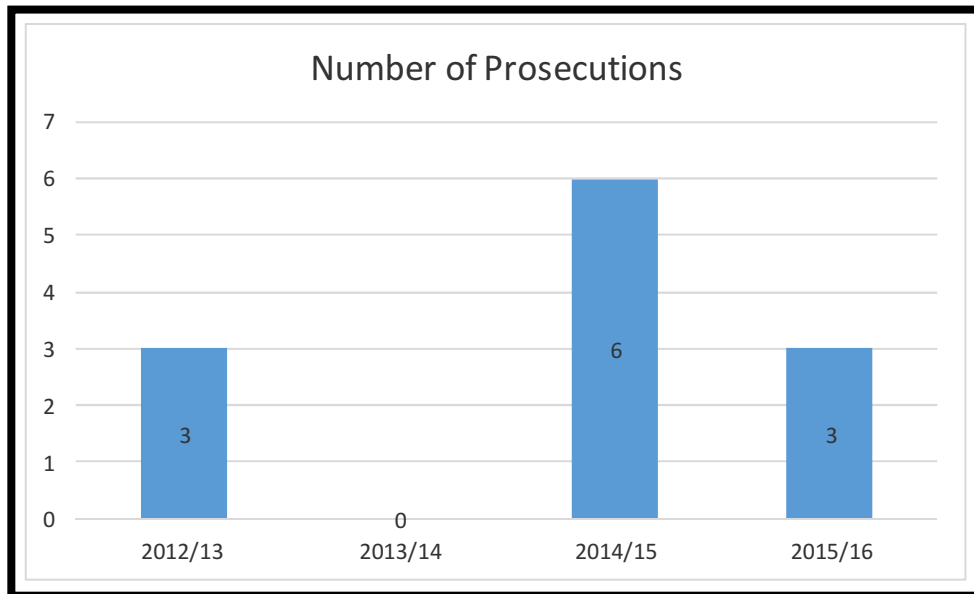
The EWS will issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents within an agreed legal context as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Carmarthenshire are currently in the process of reviewing the Code of Conduct for the issuing of penalty notices for nonattendance and this is currently being reviewed by the Local Authority’s legal Department. Once this process is complete, the Education Welfare Service will ensure that the revised Code is applied consistently and equitably across the Local Authority, ensuring that the issuing of notices is based on the clear threshold criteria outlined in the revised Code of Conduct.

6. Prosecutions and Truancy Patrols

Courts require the authority to demonstrate that every effort has been made to engage the family, secure school attendance and resolve issues before considering prosecution. The Team Manager meets monthly with our Legal Department to consider thresholds for prosecution and legal intervention.

So far this year (2015/16) the Service is in the process of prosecuting 3 families, with a further 3 families due to be prosecuted by the end of the academic year.



Truancy Patrols

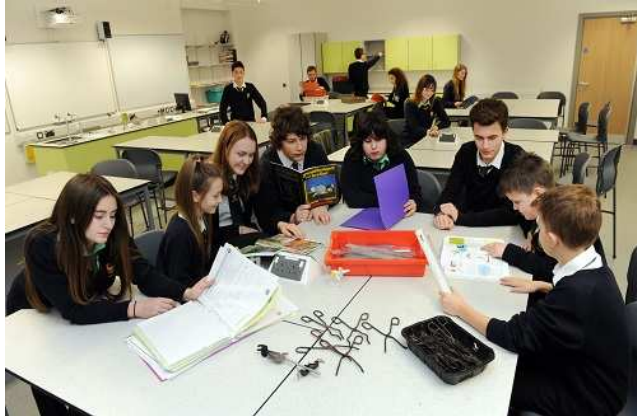
The Education Welfare Service works in collaboration with schools and community police services to carry out truancy patrols on a termly basis in the 3 main towns- Ammanford, Llanelli and Carmarthen.

7. Moving forward

The Service has a number of key target areas for 2016. The Education Welfare Service will:

- Work more closely with Challenge Advisors to support schools in meeting their identified attendance targets.
- Continue to build upon and extend the RAP delivery and group work with schools.
- Implement the revised Code of Conduct for Fixed Penalty Notices and issue penalties in line with approved guidance.
- Re-draft and re-issue School Attendance leaflets based on changes in the application of the fixed penalties.
- Raise further awareness with employers and performance companies in relation to child employment and performance regulations.
- It is planned that the Young Carers Service will sit within the Education Welfare Service in 2016.
- The Education Welfare Service will develop clear information for professionals and families on their role and legal responsibilities in line with the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act.
- Develop standardised feedback forms for schools, pupils and families on the involvement of the Service.

PRESS RELEASE, AUGUST 2015- ATTENDANCE IMPROVES AT CARMARTHENSHIRE SCHOOLS



Attendance figures across Carmarthenshire have improved with schools reporting an all-time high of 94.1%.

Parents and carers are being thanked for their co-operation in helping the county achieve the figures, which are well above the Welsh average of 93.8%.

It comes as new Welsh Government data shows that the number of pupils being absent from secondary schools across Wales is at the lowest level ever recorded.

Education Minister Huw Lewis has welcomed the falling rate as excellent news.

Carmarthenshire's education executive board member Cllr Gareth Jones said: "Improving attendance has been a key priority for Carmarthenshire and further improvement in attendance rates has been realised with our schools achieving an all-time high of 94.1% which is well above the Welsh average of 93.8%.

"Authorised absence has improved and our unauthorised absence rate is still one of the best in Wales.

"This is primarily due to co-operation from parents and carers, the diligence of schools and input from the local authority's Education Welfare Service and school data team.

"I would like to personally thank all those involved in helping schools achieve these attendance rates."

The main responsibility of the Education Welfare Service (EWS) is to promote regular attendance at school.

Officers give support and advice on regulations regarding non-attendance, child employment, performance, and chaperones.

To secure regular school attendance, they work in partnership with pupils and their families, schools, community support services and other professionals such as social workers, youth services, and educational psychologists.

A school may refer a family to the [EWS](#) if a child's school attendance is of concern.

Abbreviations

CBT	Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
DTT	Distance Travelled Tool
ERW	Education through Regional Working
EWS	Education Welfare Service
FEW	Family Engagement Workers
FPNs	Fixed Penalty Notices
ICC	Integrated Community Centre
JAFF	Joint Assessment for Families
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
OCD	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
QES	Database and Case Management system
RAP	Regular Attendance and Punctuality
SBSW	School Based Social Worker
TAF	Team around the Family
WG	Welsh Government

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14th APRIL 2016**

**Explanation for non-submission
of scrutiny report**

**Modernising Education Programme (MEP) proposal to formally unify Llangennech
Schools**

Responsible Officer(s): Simon Davies, School Modernisation Manager

Explanation: Following the number of responses received during the consultation period, it has been decided not to take the report to the Scrutiny Committee on the 14th April in order to allow time to discuss the matter further internally.

Revised Submission Date: May 2016 – September 2016

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