



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

Children's Services

Strategy to Safely Reduce the numbers of Children Looked After

2017 – 2020

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- **Data to set the scene**
- **Overview on what has been achieved so far under the strategy**
- **What we still need to do**

CLA population 1st Jan 2015 and 20th March 2019

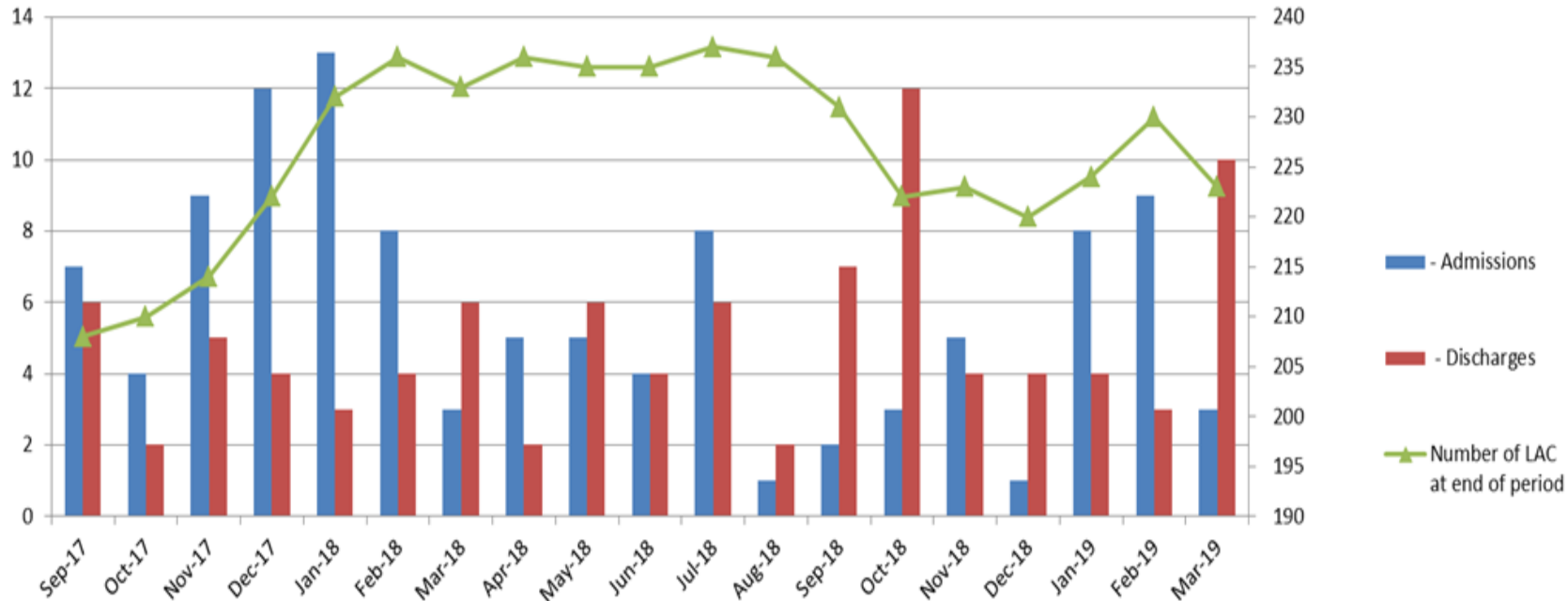
Jan 2015

134 Total
9 PWP
11 placed with kinship carers
68 placed with LA carers
26 placed with IFA
11 placed with prospective adopters
5 in residential care
4 16-17yr in other accommodation

February 2019

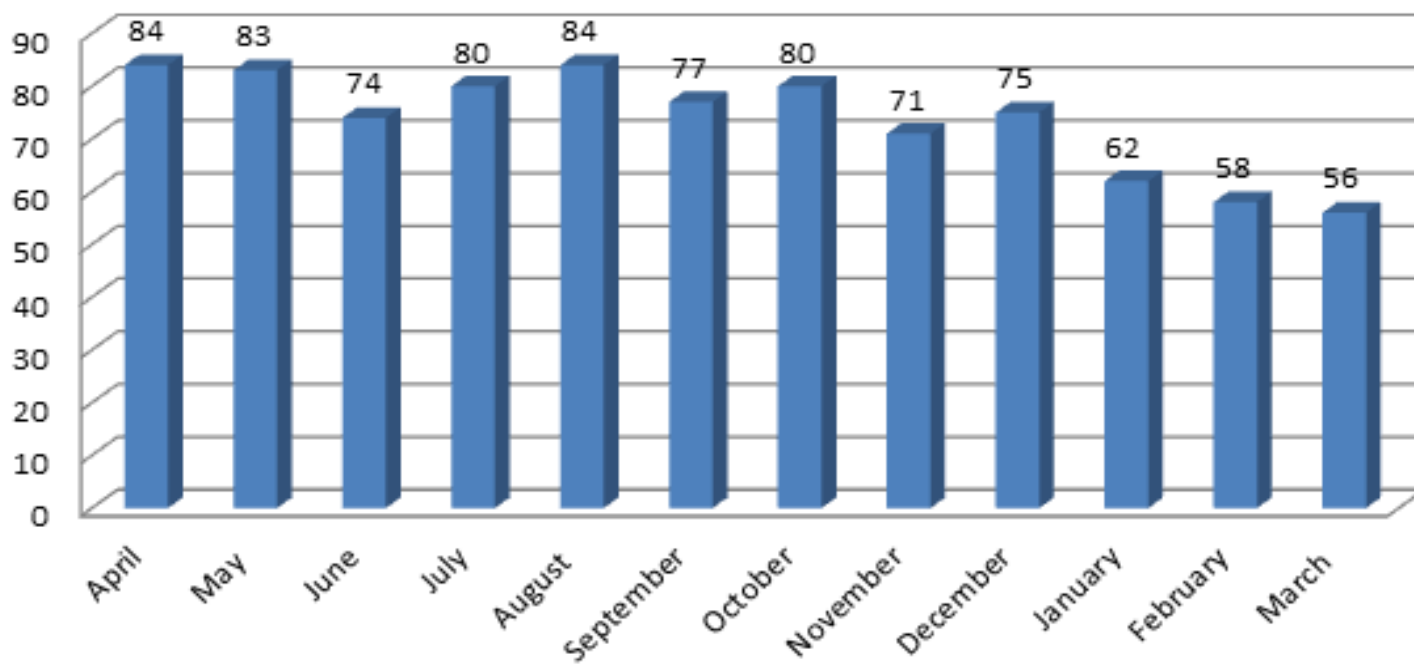
230 Total
44 PWP
37 Placed with kinship carers
79 Placed with LA carers
25 placed with IFAs
23 with prospective adopters
17 Residential Care
5 16-17yr in other accommodation

Looked After Children Summary September 2017 to March 2019



	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19
- Admissions	7	4	9	12	13	8	3	5	5	4	8	1	2	3	5	1	8	9	3
- Discharges	6	2	5	4	3	4	6	2	6	4	6	2	7	12	4	4	4	3	10
Number of LAC at end of period	208	210	214	222	232	236	233	236	235	235	237	236	231	222	223	220	224	230	223

Number of Children on CPR April 2018 to March 2019





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Objectives under our CLA reduction Strategy

Objective 1

To support families to stay together

Objective 2:

To manage risk confidently and provide support at the 'edge of care'

Objective 3:

To provide affordable high quality placements



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PROGRESS ON

OBJECTIVE 1: TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER

- **We have Embedded the new Families First structure which was changed in April 2017 to deliver targeted interventions to prevent needs from escalating.**
- **We have continued robust delivery of the 4 core elements of Flying Start (enhanced Health visiting, parenting, free child care, speech and language support) We are one of the top performing authorities in Wales.**
- **We have maximized the use of the outreach element of Flying Start to target care leavers who have children and children on the child protection register. In 18/19 we supported 6 care leavers, as a result all still have their children in their care.**



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PROGRESS ON

OBJECTIVE 1: TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER

- **We have commissioned legal advice and formed a task and finish group to establish how children can be placed with extended family without the need to become looked after under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.**
- **We ensure regular review of children placed at home with parents under a care order, and ensure revocation of the order is done at the earliest opportunity. So far in 18/19 we have revoked 7 carer orders and are preparing another 6 cases to go back to court.**
- **We have started to embed a family meeting culture when a child is at risk of coming into care to enable family to establish who other than the parents can look after the children.**

OBJECTIVE 2: TO MANAGE RISK CONFIDENTLY AND SUPPORT FAMILIES AT THE EDGE OF CARE

- **The supporting change team has been developed and in operation since Jan 2018. Already achieved £344,864 full year cost savings and up to £1,7011,000 cost avoidance . Worked with 140 children in their first year**
- **All staff have had mandatory risk management training in 2017. However this now needs to be delivered again due to staff turnover.**
- **Attachment theory training continues to be rolled across children's services. It is being provided by ABUHB Psychology funded by Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant money . They also follow up with bi monthly Team consultations to discuss complex cases. All staff will be trained by the end of the summer 2019.**
- **The workforce continue to be trained and skilled in a variety of interventions such as adopting strengths based /outcomes approach to practice. All staff will be trained in this approach by Autumn 2019 with in house mentors in place to embed the approach.**



OBJECTIVE 3 TO PROVIDE AND COMMISSION A FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY PLACEMENTS

- **We have reduced our dependence on Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements which cost significantly more money than Local Authority Placements from 38 in January 2018 to 23 in March 2019.**
- **Children in residential placements are reviewed every month by the Head of Service and Team Managers to ensure children and young people only use this resource for the minimum amount of time possible before moving on to alternative accommodation which will meet their needs.**
- **We successfully place the majority of children with a plan for adoption. March 2019 we have 8 children with a placement order, 7 have strong matches.**



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PROGRESS ON

OBJECTIVE 3 TO PROVIDE AND COMMISSION A FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY PLACEMENTS

- **We have been working with Housing Solution Team and Tai Calon to create extra flexibility with 'move-on' panel. Successful 'Move On' applicants will be placed at the top of Gold band.**
- **A supported lodgings coordinator post has been agreed via Supporting People funding stream which Llamau will take forward. The staff member should be in place for April 2019.**
- **Ty Parc -A tender is being drawn up for expansion of young person accommodation to develop a further 10 flats.**
- **Agreement was given to develop a professional foster carers scheme in April 2018. Despite significant efforts to recruit little success has been seen to date. However the scheme has enabled us to attract a small number of IFA carers**

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What we still have to progress

OBJECTIVE 1: TO SUPPORT FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER

- **New ICF grant money to develop , Family Group Meetings , Gwent wide `offer` of support to Special Guardians, Young Person's Mediation Service.**
- **Early Action Together Programme, police sergeant in the Childrens Information Advice and Assistance Team, plus 2 support workers in the Families First Team.**
- **X2 Domestic Abuse workers based in Childrens Services funded by Barnardos.**
- **SPACE Wellbeing project based in Families First to improve the emotional & mental health of children.**
- **Children and Communities Grant.**



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What we still have to progress

OBJECTIVE 2: TO MANAGE RISK CONFIDENTLY AND SUPPORT FAMILIES AT THE EDGE OF CARE

- **New ICF grant money to enhance the resource in our Supporting Change Team to include psychological support, and education support worker and a community connector.**
- **The My Support Team (MyST) will be in place at the end of April 2019.**



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What we still have to progress

OBJECTIVE 3 TO PROVIDE AND COMMISSION A FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY PLACEMENTS

- **The Regional Plan to progress the development of a National Fostering Framework will be delivered over the next 12 months which includes developing a core offer of support to foster carers across the region which is the same. ICF money will be used to provide psychological support to BG foster carers**
- **The Childrens commissioning Strategy which has been supported by the 4Cs will be finalised by the end of April 2019.**



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What we still have to progress

OBJECTIVE 3 TO PROVIDE AND COMMISSION A FLEXIBLE AND AFFORDABLE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY PLACEMENTS

- **Linc - Looking a redeveloping a scheme in Tredegar that currently has voids to offer high quality young person's accommodation**
- **Maximise the new Adoption Support Grant to increase the numbers of adopters to meet the needs within the region**



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Thank you for listening
any questions?