



Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board Action Plan 2021/22

This Plan has been developed in line with the Definitions of Well-Being under Section 2 of Part 1 of the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014.

The plan outlines the additional measures Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board are taking to improve outcomes in addition to day to day activity of the individual Social Work and Childcare Teams.

| Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2021/22 | | | | | |
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| Priority 1 – All our Children Looked After enjoy good physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing “ I am healthy, happy and active and get the right care and support from the start” | | | | | |
| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021/22 Evaluation Commentary – from previous quarter | RP | BRAG |
| All our Children Looked After enjoy good physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing | In Partnership with ABUHB monitor all statutory health assessments are undertaken for our children looked after | Monitor how the assessments were carried out throughout COVID 19 with particular attention to the emotional wellbeing of our children | As current in November assessments are face to face contact in full PPE. Still behind on statutory requirements which has been escalated to senior managers and discussed in monthly meetings. Weekly clinics at Blaina ICC resumed from 27.09.21. Still waiting on room availability at Ysbyty Tri Cwm. School nursing services have offered support, however due to a number of staff leaving this has not happened. | CE | |
| | To ensure good mental health and emotional well-being for children young people through effective partnership working with the social worker, foster carers, schools and other agencies | The Placement Team to receive Attachment training, which then will be delivered via a variety of methods to foster carers to enable them to support children who are experiencing attachment and trauma based problems | Training for staff was delivered between October and November 2021 and all team attended. It is planned that alongside individual 1 to 1 sessions delivered to foster carers, a new Circle of Security group will be organised and delivered in the New Year. | LM | |
| | | Foster carers to have access to regular psychology consultations and formulations in order to manage complex behaviours, prevent placement breakdown and celebrate success and progress of children in placement | Currently in the process of recruiting psychologist, however Paul Price from Community Psychology continues to deliver consultations for foster carers until new psychologist will be in post. | LM | |

**Priority 2 – All our Children Looked After are protected from abuse and neglect
 “I am safe and protected from abuse and neglect and informed about how to make any concerns known”**

| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021/2022 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
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| All our Children Looked After are protected from abuse and neglect | Listen to the voice of our children looked after to establish what they are concerned about from a safeguarding point of view | Develop a questionnaire with the LA safeguarding leads and then work with NYAS to support our children looked after to engage in completing it | NYAS happy to assist with this piece of work. Meeting re-arranged, questionnaire to be delivered next month. | LT | |
| | A designated officer to attend Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings for oversight of child exploitation within Blaenau Gwent. | Report to CPB with numbers of CLA children discussed at MACE meetings and on any activity identified through MACE to reduce risk | Report to be brought next meeting 2022 | LT/SD | |
| | Support those CLA where exploitation is a feature using the newly adopted Child Exploitation Measurement tool (CEMT) | <p>CEMT forms to be built into WCCIS</p> <p>Develop consistent invite list to ensure all relevant agencies are invited to Child Exploitation meetings</p> <p>Develop ‘one page’ prompt to highlight indicators of exploitation</p> <p>Develop training social workers for the CEMT</p> <p>Disseminate training in the use of CEMT, to include CS staff,</p> | <p>the CEMT tool kit has been adopted across Gwent and has been built onto Wccis. LT has updated the list to ensure relevant agencies are invited to Child Exploitation meetings. BT to finalise the prompt indicators. All team training has been completed and will be on Monday training sessions periodically for new staff. Review of the effectiveness will be carried out later in the year.</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> | BT | |

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| | | education and Business Support. Review effectiveness of the new CEMT | Done Review after 3 months | | | |
| | Provide regular information on safeguarding amongst designated safeguarding staff in education. | Provide a monthly safeguarding bulletin to education staff, to include messages from Gwent Safeguarding and police partners to highlight current issues. | In progress | SD | | |

| Priority 3 – All our Children Looked After are enabled to reach their full potential in education, training and recreation “I can learn and develop to my full potential and I do the things that matter to me” | | | | | |
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| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what do we need to improve?) | How | 2021/22 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
| Our Children Looked After are enabled to reach their full potential in education, training and recreation | Monitor, evaluate and review Corporate Traineeship for CLA and recommend actions to increase uptake by our CLA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with Environment and Regen to promote the use of the traineeship scheme for our care leavers Environment and the newly appointed Corporate Trainee Coordinator Devise a brochure of opportunities within BGCBC | <p>TL team have supported Dawn Thomas with the Asipire programme engaging with teams. Legacy report has been written for panel and funding agreed till March 2022. DT has completed 1-1 face to face contact with young people. DT and BT meet monthly. DT has redeveloped and broadened the programme to capture all young people. 2 young people over 19years of age are on placement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 trainee with Catering and hospitality ➤ 1 with child care ➤ 1 Adult care ➤ 1 grass cutting. ➤ A 21-year-old university student on the corporate traineeship had help with their CV and is now working with an external provider for past 5 months. <p>The programme supports all care leavers up to age 25 years. A brochure of external opportunities to be completed. Young people are supported to find a placement externally if there is nothing available internally.</p> | DT/TL DT/ TL | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Career journey event for children looked after – alternative date to be looked at for 21 /22 - an interactive, vibrant event | No update yet | | |
| | Support CLA in their learning during COVID 19 and recovery phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure CLA have necessary resources to engage in education • Provide educational support to carers/parents • Ensure school staff participate in the CLA review process and relevant staff contribute to planning meetings to support transition and school placement. | The mentor team have worked hard with the young people and helped source electronic devices if required. All transition meetings post 16 have been completed and were successful. All young people are aware and supported for post 16. | LMM | |
| | Promote 'CLA Friendly Schools' | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot CLA friendly audit tool and produce evaluation • Use the evaluation to contribute to the production of a 'CLA Friendly School' good practice guide • Raise awareness of the 'CLA friendly school' framework • Engage with all schools to participate in the 'CLA friendly school' framework • Deliver training programme to support 'CLA Friendly School' | Update at Decembers meeting | LMM | |

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| | Ensure our readiness for the ALN Act September 2021. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Education Directorate and Regional ALN Transformational Lead to ensure the following groups are ALN Act Ready at the appropriate time: • CLA Team • School CLA Leads • Social Workers • Foster Carers | ALN Act – LM-M noted this has been delayed till January 2022. Preparations are almost completed and LM-M will share when ready. Currently working with schools and senior leaders to ensure they are clear and ready. All paperwork completed which is a regional approach. Inclusion Team update – advert out last week for GM post, ALN officer Alex Palmer in post full time and ALC/CLA post advert closed Friday. Building capacity within the team going forward. ALN casework post will change to ALN officer which will need CLT approval. | LMM | |
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| Priority 4 – Our Children Looked After have healthy domestic, family and personal relationships “I belong and I contribute to and enjoy safe and healthy relationships” | | | | | |
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| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021/2022 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
| Our Children looked After children have healthy domestic, family and personal relationships | Promote healthy and safe relationships and behaviours from a relevant age for all our children 14+ Team to deliver a range of opportunities to consult and engage with our children to promote safe and healthy relationships | Map what work is done with our children in schools and child care settings around safe and healthy relationships before the age of 14. Following the mapping exercise identify gaps and how these can be filled. 14+ are in the process of developing a care leaver forum which will seek to address a range of topics concerning CLA and care leavers. Initially this will focus on CLA language, then moving to planning St David’s expenditure for next financial year, | No capacity to take this forward at the moment – what is happening at schools Healthy School coordinator? Hannah Watts and Claire Skelly have linked in with Lissa Friel regarding planning work for the forum and consultations with young people are ongoing. | CB/SD/CE BT | |

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| | | <p>then developing a PA service and entitlement leaflet.</p> <p>The new facility at Beaufort Road planned for Summer 2021 will have a timetable of group sessions for CLA and care leavers on topics such as personal relationships, friendships, self-esteem, confidence building, independence planning etc.</p> | <p>Beaufort Road update: kitchen has been used throughout the summer and the garden used for BBQ's. Crisis facilities available to use the bathroom and kitchen. Harvest festival to be arranged using food from planters.</p> | | |
| | <p>Promote a positive environment at Family Resource Centre for children looked after to have quality time with their birth families</p> | <p>The external and internal space for family time will be improved</p> <p>Change of language from "contact" into "family time"</p> <p>Brochure to be developed introducing the Family Time team to parents and families attending the centre</p> | <p>New equipment (lively colour chairs, bikes and play equipment, books and games) was purchased for the rooms and outdoors. Further work is needed outdoors for a trampoline and a shed for storage.</p> <p>Formal approval given and the team is now "Family Time Team". ongoing work to change the language in the forms used within statutory services for children looked after.</p> <p>Brochure was developed and is now available to parents attending the centre for family time.</p> | LM | |

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| <p>Priority 5 – Our Children Looked After secure their rights and entitlements " I know and understand what care, support and opportunities are available and use these to help manage, achieve and improve my wellbeing"</p> | | | | | |
| <p>Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)</p> | <p>Action (what are we going to do?)</p> | <p>How</p> | <p>2021/22 Evaluation Commentary</p> | <p>RP</p> | <p>BRAG</p> |

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| Our Children Looked After secure their rights and entitlements | Ensure our children know their entitlements and can easily access them | Policy to be started and will be updated by Jan/Feb 2021 by 14+ team. Care Leavers Forum will help develop the leaflet outlining the entitlements for all CLA | Financial leaflet on hold, BT and TE met to establish the support available for young people which is to be consistent with other local authorities. A report will go to CLT end of September. BG leaving Care Grant of £1200 is used to furnish a flat including white goods. There are a number of discrepancies with other LA's grants being £1,400 - £2,300, therefore BG will propose £2000. Finished and updated policy for care leavers – bring to December meeting . | BT | |
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| Priority 6 – Our Children Looked After enjoy social and economic wellbeing “I contribute towards my social life and can be with the people that I choose. I am supported to work and I get the help I need to grow up and be independent” | | | | | |
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| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021 /2022 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
| Our Children Looked After children enjoy social and economic wellbeing | Ensure that all of our children looked after are supported to engage with Hobbies/ Interests Work (when appropriate) | Support all of our care leavers to attend the events put on by Voices from Care Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure Hobbies Interest and work are discussed at every childs CLA review and make recommendations to ensure they are supported The youth service to provide regular information on activities and event to be included in the foster carers newsletter | No appetite to take up events at moment | BT CH JS | |

**Priority 7 – Our Children Looked After live in suitable accommodation
“I live in a home that best supports me to achieve my wellbeing”**

| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021/22 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------|------|
| <p>All our Children Looked After live in suitable accommodation</p> | <p>Increase the quality and number of accommodation options available for our children looked after and care leavers</p> | <p>Deliver the priorities identified in the Accommodation Action Plan 21/22 which include:-</p> <p>Updating annual analysis of accommodation required for care leavers</p> <p>Further increase the number of supported lodging placements funded via the HSG</p> <p>Creation of more 1 bedroom flats for care leavers in the Ebbw Vale and Ebbw Fach valleys</p> <p>Discussions on going with housing strategy regarding wrap around support (from increased HSG)</p> | <p>CB to take this forward</p> <p>MC update: 2 active, 2 passed assessment, 1 on hold and 1 completed. Still recruiting and having regular meetings going forward</p> <p>Meeting with housing to take this forward, additional funding has been available in the housing strategy</p> <p>HSG – dedicated floating support service within Llamu. Recruited a male and female support worker. Ongoing – launch across Wales. LM to feedback at next meeting.</p> <p>Looked to recruit Llamau floating support for young people ?</p> | <p>CB/B T</p> | |
| | <p>Implementation of Foster Wales campaign at local/regional level in order to recruit more foster carers for the local authority</p> | <p>Develop Blaenau Gwent local website, case studies and individual core offer in order to attract interested people</p> <p>Active participation in national, regional and local recruitment campaigns throughout the year</p> <p>Assessment, approval and</p> | <p>Website was developed at https://fosterwales.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk. Blaenau Gwent core offer for foster carers is now in line with regional and national offer.</p> <p>Official launch of Foster Wales was in July 2021. Since then we had one successful campaign which led to an increase in fostering enquiries in Blaenau Gwent.</p> | <p>LM</p> | |

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| | | ongoing development of new foster carers who will deliver high quality services and consistency to placements of children looked after | We have ongoing enquiries and assessments due to be presented to the Panel for new approvals. Since April 2021 we have had 4 new generic fostering households approved by the panel and available to accept placements. | | |
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Priority 8 – Leadership - The Corporate Parenting Agenda is owned across the local authority and by partner agencies

| Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?) | Action (what are we going to do?) | How | 2021/22 Evaluation Commentary | RP | BRAG |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|-------------|
| The Corporate Parenting Agenda is owned across the local authority and by partner agencies | Ensure all agencies, members and employees of the local authority are clear of their corporate parenting responsibilities | <p>Ensure there is good member and partner agency attendance at CPB meetings</p> <p>Deliver an annual corporate parenting briefing to members</p> <p>Report the progress made in relation to this action plan to the corporate leadership team and scrutiny committee annually</p> <p>Continue to lobby WG to strengthen legislation around corporate parenting responsibilities for all partners</p> | <p>Good attendance at CPB meetings</p> <p>Annual Report due in January 2022</p> <p>Continue to do</p> <p>Process legislation and good practice. PA service available for 21 – 25 year olds.</p> | TE | |