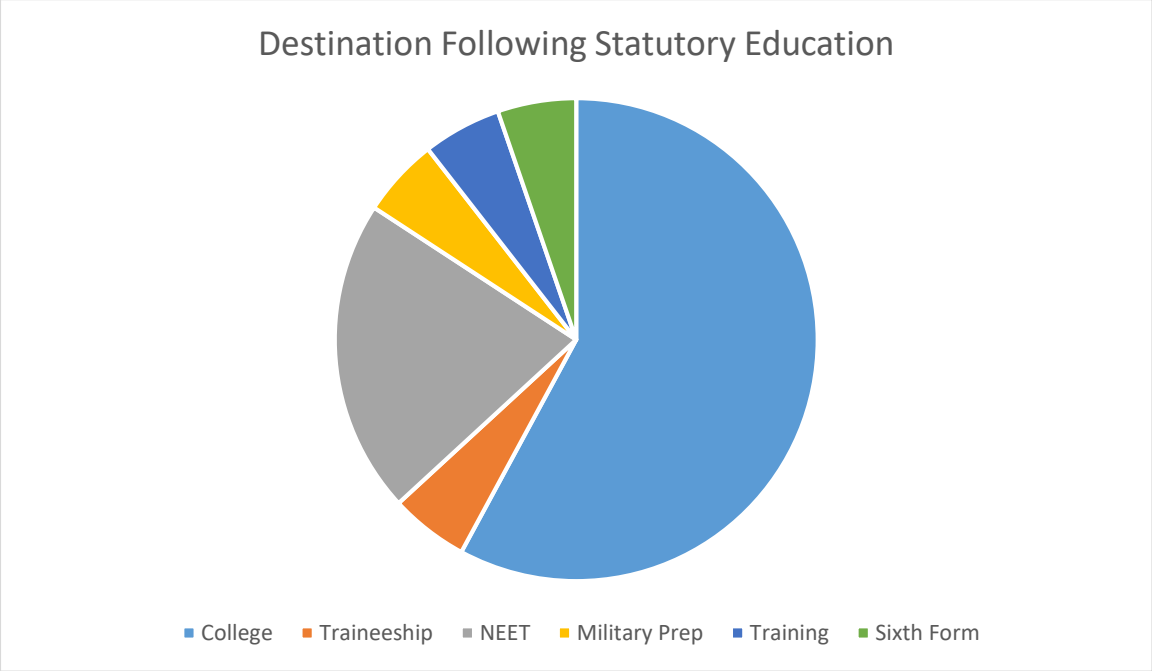


Blaenau Gwent Children Looked After who left statutory education in summer 2021

During academic year 2020-21, a total of 19 young people who were looked after by Blaenau Gwent completed their statutory school studies. All but one young person was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021. Over three quarters of our young people are engaged in post 16 learning opportunities.



Nine of our children looked after in this cohort had additional learning needs and 4 had a statement of special educational needs. 14 of the 19 young people attended mainstream school settings. One young person attended an independent school setting outside the Local Authority area, three attended local authority maintained special school settings for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and one young person was educated at a school based alternative setting.

Learner 1

Learner 1 became looked after in October 2008 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 1 was initially placed with a local authority foster carer before moving to a long term foster placement in June 2015 where they remain.

Learner 1 experienced a change of school at primary before transition to mainstream secondary school where they remained for the duration of their secondary schooling. Learner 1 has additional learning needs and associated difficulties in the areas of social, emotional and behavioural development.

Learner 1 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE results in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Learner 1 was recognised by their school as part of the annual celebration of success event in 2021 for their efforts and achievements in school.

Learner 1 was offered an enhanced transition during their final year in school to support with moving to college. A Learning and Skills Plan was put in place. Learner 1 undertook additional visits and attended taster days. Intensive pastoral support from the Inspire Team at college is provided. Since September 2021, learner 1 has accessed the Personal and Social Development Course at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 2

Learner 2 became looked after in September 2017 and is subject to a Care Order. At the point of becoming looked after learner 2 was placed in a foster placement locally before returning to the care of their birth parent in September 2018 where they remain under Placement with Parent Regulations.

Learner 2 had a Statement of Special Educational Needs and associated difficulties in the areas of social, emotional and behavioural development and mental health difficulties. As a result, learner 2 accessed a specialist education provision locally for a period of their secondary schooling before returning to their previous mainstream school setting whilst in year 10. Learner 2 was supported by the school and CAMHS and offered a bespoke timetable which was successful in re-engaging the learner back into education.

Learner 2 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, including GCSEs. Learner 2 was offered an enhanced transition during their final year in school to support with moving to college. A Learning and Skills Plan was put in place. Pastoral support from the Inspire Team at college is provided. Since September 2021, learner 2 has been undertaking a course in Electrical Installation at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 3

Learner 3 became looked after in August 2015 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 3 has experienced changes of foster placement before moving to a residential care setting in June 2018. As a result, learner 3 was required to move school whilst in year 9 at secondary school.

Learner 3 returned to their long term foster carer after leaving residential care in June 2020. Learner 3 was supported to then return to the mainstream school setting they had attended prior to moving into residential care. Multi-agency planning meetings took place to ensure that GCSE option choices could be matched. Additional support was offered by the CLA education mentor and staff at the new school to ensure catch up support was available. Learner 3 does not have any additional learning needs.

Learner 3 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021 achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. An enhanced transition plan was put in place to support the move to college. Since September 2021, learner 3 has been undertaking a level 3 Childcare course at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 4

Learner 4 became looked after in September 2016 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 4 has remained in the same care placement with kinship carers since becoming looked after.

Learner 4 does not have additional learning needs and attended mainstream school provision for the duration of their schooling. Learner 4 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 4 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021 achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. An enhanced transition plan was offered with support from the Inspire Team at college. In September 2021, learner 4 started a level 3 Health and Social Care Course at Coleg Gwent before moving onto a business support apprenticeship where they remain.

Learner 5

Learner 5 became looked after in October 2012 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 5 has experienced a number of changes of care placements during the time that they have been looked after. Learner 5 moved from a foster placement to a residential care setting in August 2018 which also required the learner to move school.

Learner 5 had a Statement of Special Educational Needs and experienced a further change of school when they moved to attend a special school for children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties towards the latter part of their secondary schooling whilst in year 10.

Learner 5 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, in line with their ability and expected outcomes. In line with a planned return to the Blaenau Gwent area and move to a supported living placement in summer 2021, an enhanced transition programme was offered to support with a move to college which included additional visits and taster days. Pastoral support from the Inspire Team at Coleg Gwent was also made available to the learner. Learner 5 however remains NEET at this time.

Learner 6

Learner 6 became looked after in February 2011 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 6 has experienced a number of changes of foster placement during the time that they have been looked after, including 2 in the final year of their schooling. Transport was provided to ensure consistency of schooling at this time, resulting in learner 6 remaining at the same secondary school to complete their statutory school studies.

Learner 6 has no additional learning needs and was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021 in line with their ability and expected outcomes including a number of GCSE qualifications.

In September 2021, learner 6 commenced a level 3 course in Public Services at a College in South Wales. An enhanced transition plan was offered during the final year of school to support the move to college.

In line with a move to a supported living placement in Blaenau Gwent mid-way through the autumn term 2021, enhanced transition support was revisited and support offered by the Inspire Team at college. Learner 6 moved to undertake the Public Services course at Coleg Gwent where they remain.

Learner 7

Learner 7 became looked after in June 2020, part way through their key stage 4 studies. Learner 7 is voluntarily accommodated and remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after. Learner 7 moved to a supported living placement following the completion of their statutory schooling in summer 2021.

Learner 7 has additional learning needs and moved to attend a special school for children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties part way through year 7, before becoming looked after.

Learner 7 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes.

Despite repeated attempts to engage learner 7 in post 16 learning opportunities, including an enhanced transition plan to support with the move to college, learner 6 remains NEET at this time.

Learner 8

Learner 8 became looked after in April 2015 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 8 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after.

Learner 8 does not have additional learning needs and attended mainstream school for the duration of their schooling. Learner 8 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 8 was identified as a More Able and Talented Pupil. Learner 8 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Learner 8 was recognised by their school as part of the annual celebration of success event in 2021 for their efforts and achievements in science and maths as well as for their representation on the school's pupil leadership team. Learner 8 received the Head Teacher's Award for 2020-2021. In September 2021, learner 8 commenced A Levels in Physics, Mathematics, Sociology and Criminology at a college in a neighbouring authority whilst also working part time.

Learner 9

Learner 9 became looked after in August 2012 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 9 has experienced a number of changes of foster placement during the time that they have been looked after. Following the breakdown of their long term foster placement, learner 9 was required to move school when in year 9.

Learner 9 does not have additional learning needs however challenges in relation to their emotional wellbeing and physical health impacted on attendance at school.

Learner 9 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Learner 9 was offered an enhanced transition during their final year in school to support with moving to college. Pastoral support from the Inspire Team at college is in

place. Since September 2021, learner 9 has accessed a level 2 course in Creative Studies at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 10

Learner 10 became looked after in May 2013 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 10 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after.

Learner 10 does not have additional learning needs and attended mainstream school setting. Learner 10 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 10 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. An enhanced transition programme was put in place to support with the move to college, including additional visits, taster days, travel practice and intensive pastoral support from the Inspire Team at college. Since September 2021, Learner 10 has accessed a course in Personal and Social Development at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 11

Learner 11 became looked after in October 2018 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 11 has experienced a number of changes of care placements during the time that they have been looked after. As a result, learner 11 experienced two changes of school during their secondary education. Learner 11 returned to reside with birth parent under Placement with Parent Regulations in April 2021.

Learner 11 did not have any additional learning needs and attended mainstream school. Non-attendance was an ongoing issue for learner 11 towards the latter part of their secondary schooling. A number of fixed term exclusions were issued by schools. As a result, learner 3 was supported to engage in the school's own alternative setting.

Learner 11 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021 including GCSEs. Despite repeated attempts to engage learner 11 in post 16 learning opportunities, they remain NEET at this time.

Learner 12

Learner 12 became looked after in September 2016 and has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after.

Learner 12 has no additional learning needs and attended mainstream school. Learner 12 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition, remaining at the same school for the duration of their secondary schooling.

Learner 12 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in summer 2021 achieving a number of GCSE qualifications, in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2021, learner 12 has been working towards A Levels in ICT, Mathematics and Computer Science at college.

Learner 13

Learner 13 became looked after in August 2019 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 13 has experienced two previous episodes in care. During the most recent care episode learner 13 has resided at home under Placement with Parent Regulations.

Learner 13 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition, remaining at the same school since becoming looked after. Learner 13 does not have additional learning needs but did receive a number of fixed term exclusions whilst at school and was subject to a Pastoral Support Plan. Poor attendance at school was also an issue. Learner 13 was supported whilst at school to access Military Preparation College for 1 day per week for the latter part of their statutory studies. In summer 2021, learner 13 was recognised for their outstanding efforts whilst attending the course.

Learner 13 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, including GCSEs. Since September 2021, learner 13 has undertaken a full time course at the Motivational Preparation College for training (Military Preparation) and intends to pursue a course in Carpentry at Coleg Gwent from September 2021.

Learner 14

Learner 14 became looked after in June 2013 and has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after. Learner 14 is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 14 has a Statement of Special Educational Needs and associated difficulties in the areas of social, emotional and behavioural development. Learner 14

experienced a change of school from mainstream to a specialist SEBD school whilst in year 7.

Learner 14 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE results in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2021, learner 14 has been undertaking a level 1 Course in Public Services at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 15

Learner 15 has been looked after since December 2008 and is subject to a Care Order. Since becoming looked after learner 15 has resided with kinship carers.

Learner 15 does not have any additional learning needs and attended mainstream school. Learner 15 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 15 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE results, in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Over the course of summer 2021, learner 15 engaged with the Local Authority's Corporate Traineeship Scheme. Learner 15 is now attending the Learning for Life programme with Llamau with the intention of returning to the Corporate Traineeship Scheme in the future.

Learner 16

Learner 16 became looked after in December 2015 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 16 has remained in the same foster placement throughout the time that they have been looked after.

Learner 16 attended mainstream school throughout their education and does not have any additional learning needs. Learner 16 experienced no changes to their schooling other than for the purpose of transition and has remained at the same mainstream secondary school to complete their statutory studies.

Learner 16 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2021, learner 16 has been undertaking a level 3 course in Public Services at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 17

Learner 17 became looked after in October 2015 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 17 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after.

Learner 17 attended mainstream school throughout their education and does not have any additional learning needs. Learner 17 experienced no changes to their schooling other than for the purpose of transition and has remained at the same mainstream secondary school to complete their statutory studies.

Learner 17 was awarded a range of recognised qualifications in summer 2021 achieving a number of GCSE qualifications, in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2021, learner 17 has stayed on at school to attend sixth form and is working towards A Levels in Mathematics, English, Medical Science and Psychology.

Learner 18

Learner 18 became looked after in August 2010 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 18 has experienced a number of changes to care placement whilst being looked after before moving to a residential care setting in March 2017.

Learner 18 has additional learning needs and a statement of Special Educational Needs. In line with a move to an alternative residential setting in February 2020, learner 18 attended an independent special school setting for children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.

An enhanced transition plan was put in place during their final year in school to support with moving to college. A Learning and Skills Plan was put in place. Learner 18 undertook additional visits and attended taster days. Intensive pastoral support from the wellbeing team at college is provided. Since September 2021, learner 18 has attended the Independent Living Skills Course at college in the area where they reside.

Learner 19

Learner 19 became looked after in May 2021, nearing the end of their final year of statutory schooling. Learner 19 is subject to a Care Order. Learner 19 has remained in the same care placement with kinship carers since becoming looked after.

Learner 19 does not have any additional learning needs and attended mainstream school. Learner 19 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 19 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2021, including a number of GCSE qualifications, in line with their ability and expected outcomes. In September 2021, Learner 19 started a level 1 course in Childcare at Coleg Gwent. Towards the latter part of the autumn term 2021, learner 19 made the decision to leave the course. Learner 19 remains NEET at this time.

Key messages

- Almost half of the young people who completed their statutory studies in summer 2021 had additional learning needs. This did not however preclude them from achieving recognised qualifications.
- The majority of learners attended mainstream schools.
- Consistency of school placement was maintained for learners wherever possible
- Experiencing a change of care placement or school move does not necessarily impact on learner outcomes.
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- Enhanced transition planning is offered to all learners to assist with moving to college.
- The uptake of pastoral support at college is good
- Engagement in post 16 learning, employment or training opportunities is very good. All but one of the young people who were engaged at the start of the academic year remain so at this time.

Cath Edwards

CLA education coordinator

December 2021