



Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board
Action Plan 2019/20



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.

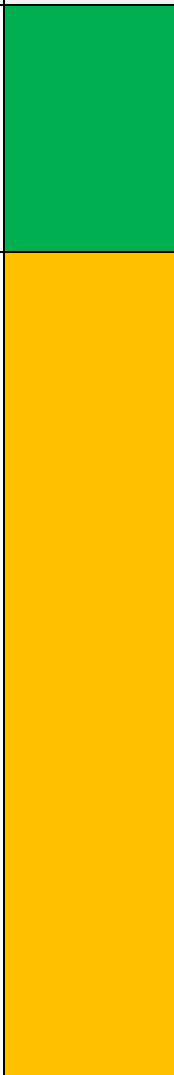
Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Action Plan 2019/20				
Priority 1 – All our Looked After Children enjoy good physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing “ I am healthy, happy and active and get the right care and support from the start”				
Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
All our Looked After Children enjoy good physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing and there is a well monitored coordinated approach to achieving this	In Partnership with ABUHB monitor all health assessment requirements in relation to CEL 16 to ensure they are achieved.	Monitor quarterly via update to CPB .	All looked after children are offered a Health assessment within 28 days of becoming Looked After. Children under 5 are seen by their named Health Visitor whilst those over 5 are seen by the Specialist nurse for Looked After Children. Health assessments may be undertaken at home or in a local clinic.	
	Develop support to Improve outcomes for children and young people with complex needs through earlier intervention, community based support and placements closer to home.	Monitor development of MySt team. Once the team have been inducted they will start working with our complex children (who have already been identified) in an effort to move them out of residential care and into foster care. They will also work with children who are at risk of entering residential care.	MyST has been in operation since June 2019. They have successfully moved 2 children out of residential care into foster placements by providing intensive support to the child, foster carers and their support networks. They are also working with 2 children intensively to prevent their needs escalating to the point where they need residential care.	

	<p>To ensure good mental health and emotional well-being for children young people through effective partnership working.</p>	<p>Explore the option of Psychology input in Placement Team using ICF grant money for prevention. – recruitment for this position was not successful as applicants are reluctant to accept a short term contract; we are currently looking into other options for access to psychology. Meanwhile our foster carers have now access to the MyST foster carer clinics which are led by a psychologist and have the purpose to prevent placements breakdown.</p> <p>Supporting children who are experiencing attachment and trauma based problems by delivering training to Social Services staff across Blaenau Gwent and evaluation how this is being used to support children; - currently Supporting Change Team, Contact Team and Abertillery Locality Team staff has training delivered by the Psychology Service; all these teams will engage now in the follow up program including regular group supervision and reflective practice opportunities.</p>	<p>Recruitment for this position was not successful as applicants are reluctant to accept a short term contract; we are currently looking into other options for access to psychology. Meanwhile our foster carers have now access to the MyST foster carer clinics which are led by a psychologist and have the purpose to prevent placements breakdown.</p> <p>Currently the Supporting Change Team, Contact Team and Abertillery Locality Team staff have had training delivered by the Psychology Service; all these teams will engage now in the follow up program including regular group supervision and reflective practice opportunities.</p>	
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		Explore offering Circle of Security parenting for all Foster Carers.	No progress yet	
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Priority 2 – All our Looked After Children 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	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
All Looked after Children are protected from abuse and neglect.	A designated officer from Locality teams to liaise with team managers and identify those children who are at risk of sexual exploitation and those displaying sexually harmful behaviour.	Report to CPB with numbers of C&YP and detail showing what has been done to manage and reduce the risks to this cohort of children. Compare to previous work	Work to be undertaken by Safeguarding Manager - January 2020	
	Identify and safely manage those CLA where self-harm is a feature of their risk management plan.	Safeguarding - Raise awareness of the issue of County Lines, Criminal Exploitation, Social media exploitation through briefing sessions with children, schools, community groups, practitioners and foster carers.	Work to be undertaken by Safeguarding Manager - January 2020	

**Priority 3 – All our Looked After Children 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”**

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what do we need to improve?)	How	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
<p>Our children are enabled to reach their full potential in education, training and recreation</p>	<p>Minimise the risk of CLA becoming NEET.</p>	<p>Regular meetings of the Vulnerable Learners Subgroup.</p> <p>Ensure that Out of County CLA pupils are recorded on the 'Early Identification Toolkit' (EIT).</p>	<p>CLA education coordinator attends the VLSG</p>	
	<p>Improve communication with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) regarding CLA funding and cluster plans (CLA PDG).</p>	<p>Work with schools (CLA Leads/Headteachers) in the development of their cluster bids.</p> <p>Work with the EAS to ensure that appropriate monitoring and evaluation of cluster plans takes place.</p> <p>Work with the EAS to ensure a joined up and coordinated training programme.</p> <p>Establish transparent and equitable sharing of information with the EAS.</p> <p>Ensure relevant information is shared with Monitoring Evaluation and Review Group / Wider Group and with regional SEWC.</p>	<p>Schools will start to prepare their cluster bids in the Spring term in line with the regional approach. Discussions have taken place with the EAS in readiness for development discussions.</p> <p>Clusters will be carrying out evaluations of their 19/20 plans in the spring term. The availability of these evaluations will support the planning for 20/21 plans.</p> <p>Plan is for EAS to facilitate a training session for Designated CLA teachers in Blaenau Gwent in the spring term in addition to the current annual training plan.</p> <p>The Education Wider Group meeting between the LA and the EAS has been refocused and therefore discussions are taking place as to how best to ensure the sharing of information.</p> <p>MER group enables clear sharing of relevant information to inform the wider inclusion agenda in Education and into schools.</p>	

	<p>Promote 'CLA Friendly Schools'</p>	<p>Establish Task and Finish Group to implement the action plan.</p> <p>Develop a framework for a 'CLA friendly school'.</p> <p>Test framework on a pilot group of schools and produce evaluation.</p> <p>Use the evaluation to contribute to the production of a 'CLA Friendly School' good practice guide</p> <p>Raise awareness of the 'CLA friendly school' framework.</p> <p>Engage with all schools to participate in the 'CLA friendly school' framework.</p> <p>Deliver training programme to support 'CLA Friendly School'.</p>	<p>T&F group established.</p> <p>Consultation with CLA young people took place on 22.11.19 and 6.12.19. The feedback from the consultation will contribute to the framework.</p> <p>To be tested upon completion of the framework.</p> <p>Not complete.</p> <p>Designated CLA teacher termly meetings have now been established. The work on CLA friendly schools as been disseminated at the first meeting held in November and will be a standing item at future meetings.</p> <p>Preceding actions need to be completed prior to this one.</p> <p>A training presentation has also been developed to raise awareness of CLA with whole school staffing teams. This now needs to be trialled.</p>	
	<p>Our readiness for the ALN Act.</p>	<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CLA Team 	<p>The ALN Act implementation has been pushed back 12 months, now commencing in September 2021 with a three year roll out. Key to the readiness is the finalised ALN Code of Practice. This was planned for issue in Jan 2020 but now will be issued 'from 2020 – code and regulations laid before National Assembly'. Regional planning in SEWC has taken the view to continue readiness at the same pace regardless of the delay – what will be good for pupils in Sept 21 will be good for pupils in Sept 2020. Initial training has been provided to schools, CLA team. Further training developed by WG will be rolled out when finalised by WG and Transformation leads.</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- School CLA Leads- Social Workers- Foster Carers		
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**Priority 4 – Our Looked After Children have healthy domestic, family and personal relationships
“I belong and I contribute to and enjoy safe and healthy relationships”**

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
<p>Our Looked after children have healthy domestic, family and personal relationships</p>	<p>14+ Team to organise a workshop to seek the views from older LAC regarding developing and strengthening work with LAC on personal relationships</p>	<p>Referrals into NYAS are monitored on a quarterly basis in 2018/19 Qtr 1 42.9% of those eligible were referred to NYAS, this rose to 100% in Qtr 2. We await end of year figures This action will roll over to the 19/20 until we are assured automatic referrals into NYAS are embedded in practice</p> <p>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, then developing a PA service and entitlement leaflet.</p> <p>Additionally, group work programmes are being developed to undertake work with groups for CLA and care leavers on topics such as personal relationships, friendships, self-esteem, confidence</p>	<p>Automatic referrals into NYAS are still 100%</p> <p>Lack of capacity within the team has prevented this from being progressed but this is currently being addressed.</p> <p>A T&F group has been established to address this.</p>	

		building, independence planning etc.		
	Promote healthy and safe relationships and behaviours from a relevant age for all our looked after children.	<p>A T&F group will be established in 2019 /20 to explore this area in more depth- look at what emotional and wellbeing support is offered to LAC throughout stages of their life in EY settings, schools, colleges, at home, in placement.</p> <p>Also explore through briefing sessions and training for foster carers – do they know what the schools are delivering in? do they understand and compliment this?</p>	<p>A Task and Finish Group has been established and a mapping exercise will take place on 23rd January 2020 to establish what is available at each stage of a child's life.</p> <p>Discussions with Healthy School, Youth Service etc.to explore how healthy relationships are being included on school curriculum and what other provision is out there to support mental health and wellbeing of our children. Is there enough? Do we need to supplement this? Is it easily accessible? What are the access criteria? Are our children accessing it? How do we know?</p>	

Priority 5 – Our Looked After Children 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”

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
Our Looked After Children secure their rights and entitlements	Ensure our children have a voice in the way in which we deliver and shape services.	Each child to be given a child friendly copy of their LAC care plan and provide the opportunity for our looked after children to give feedback on issues impacting them.	The CLA care plan is currently in process of being changed into a more user and client friendly version. Aim to implement the new form in WCCIS is April 2020.	
	Ensure our children know their entitlements and can easily access them	Develop a child / young person friendly leaflet on what LAC / Carer leavers can access.	Policy to be started and will be updated by Jan/Feb 2020 by 14+ team. When this has been completed, the Care Leavers Forum will help develop the leaflet outlining the entitlements.	

Priority 6 – Our Looked after children 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”

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
Our Looked after children enjoy social and economic wellbeing	Realise the importance of social and economic wellbeing by ensuring our children are engaged with hobbies and interest / activities from a young age by knowing and offering leisure and social opportunities to all our LAC at all ages.	Develop links with Aneurin leisure and other community groups to offer social incentives for LAC Looked after children and young are provided with no cost/low cost.	Links to ABL have yet to progress due to changes in their structure this year but other opportunities for our children to enjoy social activities have progressed in 2019. Our children looked after have enjoyed trips to the beach, trampolining, visited Big Pit and been away for the night. This has all been planned by the 14 plus team who continue to make a difference to our children's lives.	
		Explore scoping what social interests our children looked after have	The actions around scoping hobbies and interests of our Children Looked After to encourage them to join groups and clubs and develop a sense of belonging and purpose has yet to start due to so much activity on other aspects of the plan. We know what we want to do and where we want to go and this will be taken forward in 2020.	
		Placement team to review the way in which take on responsibility for canvassing firms/organisations for tickets to events etc including proportion of tickets for Council / Community organised events are ring fenced for looked after children.	Not yet started.	
		Ensure an officer from Children's Services is linking with "Voices From Care" and maximising all	The team have encouraged our children to join in with the organisation Voices from Care and access the trips, events and activities provided through them has started in 2019.	

		trips and activities offered through this organisation.		
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**Priority 7 – Our Looked After Children 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	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
<p>All accommodation provided is suitable to meet the needs of the children and young people</p>	<p>Improve and increase the accommodation options available to LAC post 16 years</p>	<p>Deliver the key priorities identified in the Accommodation Action Plan 19/20 which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating taster flats • Rerun housemate course. • Online virtual tour of Foster carer homes • Create more suitable accommodation offers • More supported lodgings • monitor placement moves • Exception from Council Tax • Cookery courses and independent living courses 	<p>Things that have gone well in 2019:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new “Move on” Panel established is very proactive, all children have been placed this year. There is good identification of need, new banding system and successful matches with accommodation 2. A housing complex in Tredegar has been restructured and 10 flats are now ring fenced for young people. A gym has been developed, the bedrooms updated and refreshed and appropriate accessories like games consoles have been introduced. 3. The template for Annual Analysis of Accommodation for care leavers has been updated. 4. The Youth and Temporary Accommodation Officer has provided invaluable communication link between the 14 plus team and Housing Solutions Team, working with young people aged 16, 17 and LAC to look at bespoke housing options. 5. The Supporting People Team is funding the Housing First Support Model for young people. Housing First is an alternative to temporary accommodation and supported housing. 6. The accredited course “Housemate” on Independent living continues to be delivered and organised by Shelter Cymru’s Education Service. “Housemate” informs and educates young people to avoid future housing problems and homelessness. The course was undertaken by 15 looked after children aged 14-16 at the Ebbw Vale Institute, Ebbw Vale. The course will run on an annual basis each year to start preparing the children for independent living. 7. A cohort of our care leavers will not have Christmas Lunch with family or friends this year, so again this year they will prepare and cook their own Christmas Lunch 	

			<p>together (this year at Waunlwyd OAP Hall) with staff from 14 plus team. They will set out a room as dining room, play Christmas themes games, receive Christmas Eve boxes, presents and new pyjamas as they would if they were with their family.</p>	
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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	2019 /2020 Evaluation Commentary	BRAG
<p>The Corporate Parenting Agenda is owned across the local authority and by partner agencies</p>	<p>Ensure all agencies, members and employees of the local authority are clear of their corporate parenting responsibilities.</p>	<p>Continue to coordinate and organise an annual Corporate Parenting awareness raising event for members, officers of authority.</p>	<p>The Corporate Parenting Board continues to have good commitment from Local Authority officers and partner agencies and Elected Member representation has been excellent during 2019.</p>	
		<p>Working between departments goes from strength to strength and the vision for our children is now well known however still way to go until everyone in LA knows about our children. This will be reviewed in 2020.</p>		