

Report to Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board 09.12.2019 re: children looked after who left statutory education in summer 2019

During academic year 2018-19, a total of 16 young people who were looked after by Blaenau Gwent completed their statutory school studies. 9 of the 16 young people achieved recognised qualifications.

Three quarters of the young people who were looked after and completed their statutory studies in summer 2019 had additional learning needs and more than half (56%) had a statement of special educational needs.

5 of the 16 children attended mainstream school settings, 3 attended special schools settings, 2 attended independent schools a further 3 attended alternative provisions including tuition and the remaining 3 attended pupil referral units. Of the 5 children who followed the mainstream curriculum none achieved level 2 inclusive*. However 4 children who attended mainstream school and one child who attended an alternative provision achieved Level 1**.

Note: Level 2 inclusive – a volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to 5 GCSE's at grade A-C including English or Welsh First Language and Mathematics.

**Note: Level 1 – a volume of qualifications at Level 1 equivalent to 5 GCSE's at grade A*- G including English or Welsh First Language and Mathematics.

Learner 1

Learner 1 has been looked after since May 2011 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 1 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after, but has experienced one change of school in July 2013, which was in line with the young person's long term foster placement.

Learner 1 attended a mainstream education provision but appeared on the SEN Code of Practice due to having additional learning needs in relation to cognition.

Learner 1 left school with recognised qualifications achieving GCSEs in line with their ability. Since September 2019, Learner 1 has accessed a health and social care course at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 2

Learner 2 has been looked after since April 2015 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 2 remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after until returning to the care of their birth mother in April 2019. Learner 2 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 2 attended a mainstream education provision and does not have any additional learning needs.

Learner 2 left school with recognised qualifications achieving GCSE qualifications in line with their ability. Since September 2019, Learner 2 has accessed a course at Coleg y Cymoedd and has sourced a part-time job within hospitality.

Learner 3

Learner 3 has been looked after since September 2012 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 3 has remained in the same care placement since becoming looked and resides with their paternal grandparents.

Learner 3 attended a mainstream school provision throughout their primary and key stage 3 studies and does not have any additional learning needs. During key stage 4, Learner 3 was placed at the school's own alternative provision on a bespoke timetable which included accessing core subject lessons within the mainstream setting.

Learner 3 left school with recognised qualifications in line with their ability and is now studying a full time course in hairdressing at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 4

Learner 4 has been looked after since October 2008 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 4 had remained in the same foster placement and school since becoming looked after until moving to an alternative foster placement in October 2018. Learner 4 has since experienced a further breakdown in foster placement and is currently residing in a supporting living placement locally.

Learner 4 has a statement of special educational needs and a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Learner 4 attended a mainstream school provision throughout their primary and key stage 3 studies. However during key stage 4, Learner 4 was placed at the school's own alternative provision.

Learner 4 left school with recognised qualifications, in line with expected outcomes. Learner 4 started on the corporate traineeship scheme and more recently has sourced employment in construction.

Learner 5

Learner 5 has been looked after since May 2019 and is subject to an Interim Care Order. Learner 5's episode of care coincided with the beginning of the year 11 examination period.

Learner 5 has remained in the same mainstream school since becoming looked after. Learner 5 has no additional learning needs and left school with a number of recognised qualifications, achieving GCSEs in line with their ability.

Since September 2019 Learner 5 has attended a training scheme in the local area to where they now reside

Learner 6

Learner 6 has been looked after since 2009 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 6 has experienced a number of placement moves before returning to the care of their birth mother.

Learner 6 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Learner 6 attended specialist education settings throughout their primary and secondary education. Learner 6 attended a specialist independent school outside the local authority area for children with social emotional and behavioural difficulties until key stage 4. Following the breakdown of their specialist school placement Learner 6 attended the local authority's SEBD special school where they accessed a work based learning provision off site.

Learner 6 left school without gaining recognised qualifications however returned to the work based learning provision as a post 16 pupil in September 2019.

Learner 7

Learner 7 has been looked after since July 2016 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 7 has experienced 3 changes of foster placements since becoming looked after before returning to the care of family.

Learner 7 has a statement of Special Educational Needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Learner 7 experienced two changes of school placement, including a move to the Local Authority Pupil Referral Unit. In line with a change of care placement, Learner 7 attended a PRU in a neighbouring Local Authority where they remained for the final year of their statutory studies.

Learner 7 left school with a number of recognised qualifications in line with their ability. Learner 7 is engaged with a post 16 training provider.

Learner 8

Learner 8 has been looked after since 2013 following the breakdown of their adoptive placement. Learner 8 remains voluntarily accommodated.

Learner 8 has a statement of special educational needs and a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Learner 8 has previously attended a resource base for children with complex needs at a local secondary school before moving outside the local authority area and being

offered a placement at the local Pupil Referral Unit. Despite continued attempts to re-engage, the learner was persistent in their non-attendance. Learner 8 left education without recognised qualifications and remains NEET.

Learner 9

Learner 9 has been looked after since June 2012 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 9 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after. Learner 9 has experienced one change of school in line with their educational needs.

Learner 9 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of Global Developmental Delay and Autism. Learner 9 has attended a special school where they have remained throughout their secondary school education.

Learner 9 did not achieve any recognised qualifications but has remained as a year 12 pupil at the local authority's special school for children with complex needs.

Learner 10

Learner 10 has been looked after since 2003 and experienced a number of foster placement moves since moving to their current long term foster placement in 2008 where they have remained since.

Learner 10 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Learner 10 has previously attended resource bases attached to mainstream primary and secondary schools within the local authority area. Learner 10 moved to the local authority's special school for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties in the final year of their statutory studies where they accessed a work based learning provision off site.

Learner 6 left school without gaining recognised qualifications however returned to the work based learning provision as a post 16 pupil in September 2019.

Learner 11

Learner 11 has been looked after since June 2006 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 11 has remained in the same placement since becoming looked after.

Learner 11 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behaviour difficulties. Learner 11 has attended a mainstream setting with full time support in school for the duration of their secondary schooling. .

Learner 11 left school with a number of recognised qualifications in line with their ability. Learner 11 is now engaged with a course at Cross Keys College

Learner 12

Learner 12 has been looked after since 2017 and remains voluntarily accommodated. Learner 12 has experienced a number of care placements since moving to a residential care setting in January 2018 with the plan for them to remain there until reaching independence.

Learner 12 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behaviour difficulties.

Learner 12 has attended specialist education provision both in and outside the local authority area. Learner 12's placement at a specialist independent school came to an end part way through their final year of study and moved on to access a bespoke package of tuition.

Learner 12 has particularly complex educational needs and whilst they left school without recognised qualifications engaged fully in the package of education offered via tuition. Learner 12 returned to attend a course at Gower College in September 2019.

Learner 13

Learner 13 has been looked after since 2016 and is subject to a full Care Order. Learner 13 has experienced a number of care placement changes since becoming looked after before moving to the residential care setting where the plan is for her to remain until independence.

Learner 13 does not have a statement of special educational needs but does have additional learning needs. Learner 13 has accessed both mainstream and more specialist education settings. Learner 13 completed their statutory studies in a specialist independent school setting outside the local authority area.

Learner 13 left school with a number of recognised qualifications and is now engaged with a post 16 training provider.

Learner 14

Learner 14 became looked after in October 2015 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 14 has experienced one change of care placement since becoming looked after. Learner 14 has had one change of school placement in July 2016 in line with their long term care placement.

Learner 14 has no additional learning needs and left school with a number of recognised qualifications, achieving GCSE qualifications in line with their ability. As of September 2019 Learner 14 is attending a course at Coleg Gwent.

Learner 15

Learner 15 became looked after in July 2015 and is subject to a Care Order.

Upon becoming looked after, Learner 15 was placed within a residential care placement and accessed an independent school setting. Since completion of statutory studies, Learner 15 has moved into an independent living setting.

Learner 15 does not have a statement of special educational needs but does appear on the SEN Code of Practice, with a primary need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. As a result of complete refusal to attend the independent school setting at the end of the first year of their key stage 4 studies Learner 15 accessed a bespoke tuition package via a neighbouring local authority Pupil Referral Unit.

Learner 15 disengaged from education during year 11 and did not achieve any recognised qualifications. Since finishing statutory school learner 15 has sourced employment.

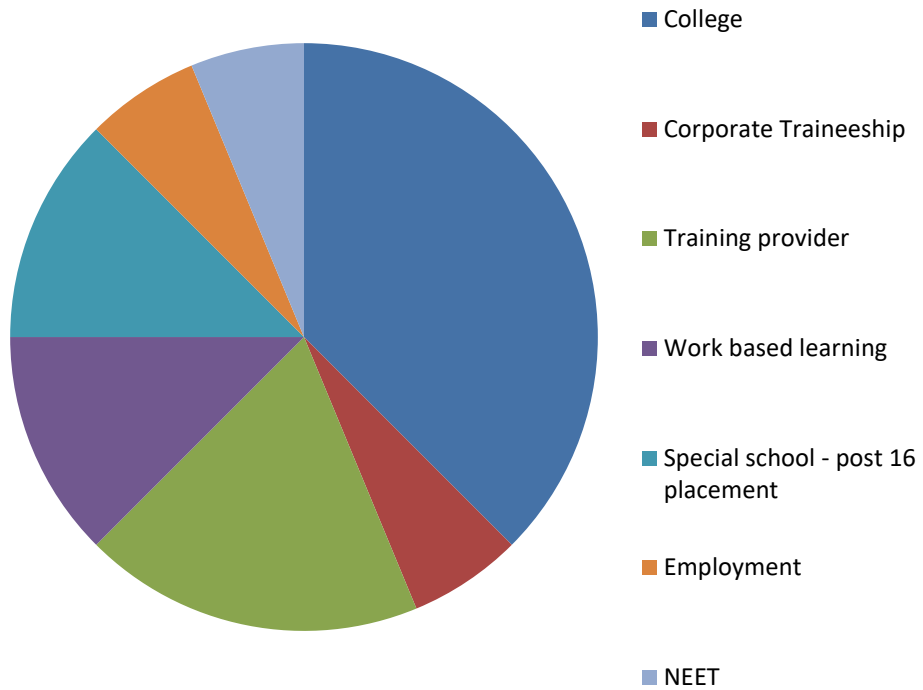
Learner 16

Learner 16 became looked after in 2014 and has experienced a number of care placements before moving to a residential care setting in 2015 where they remained until moving to a long term foster placement in 2019 where the plan is for them to remain until independence.

Learner 16 has a statement of special educational needs with a primary educational need of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Learner 16 accessed the independent school setting linked to their residential placement before moving to an alternative school placement in line with their educational needs during key stage 4

Learner 16 left school without recognised qualifications however has remained on at school as a post 16 pupil with a view to completing GCSE qualifications in year 12.

Destinations of school leavers summer 2019



Key messages

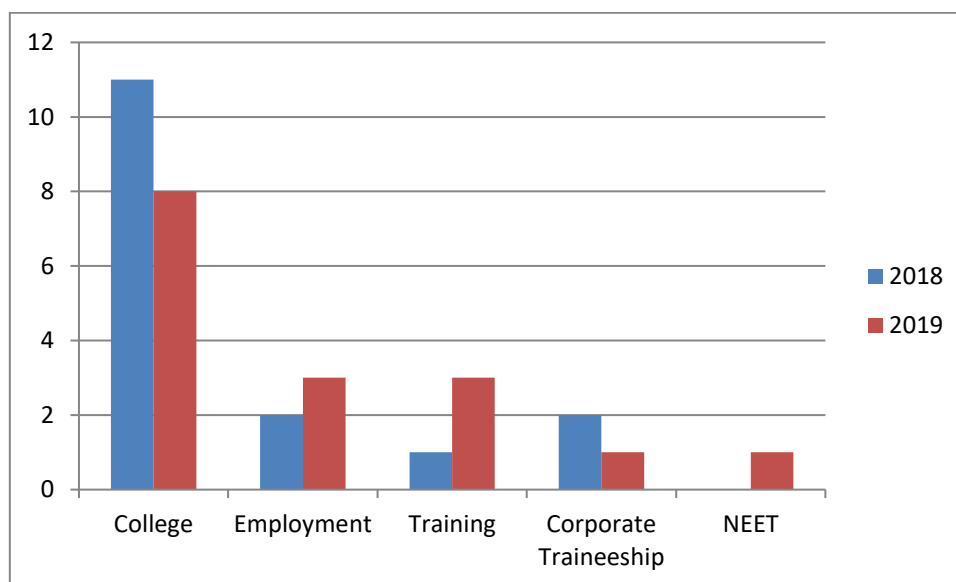
- One learner became looked after during the final year of their statutory studies. The learner did not experience a change of education placement as a result of becoming looked after. The learner has engaged with a post 16 training provider after completing their statutory studies
- Of the learners who did not achieve recognised qualifications all but one experienced changes to either their care or education placements during the course of their key stage 4 studies
- Of the learners who experienced changes to their care placements in the final year of their statutory studies all but one are now engaged with post 16 education, training or employment opportunities
- The impact upon learner outcomes is less when changes of care placement occur at either an earlier point in the young person's schooling and/ or allow the young person to continue to attend their original education provision.

Catherine Edwards

Children looked after education coordinator

Update to Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board 09.12.2019 re: CLA who left statutory education in summer 2018

A total of 16 looked after young people completed their statutory school studies in summer 2018



- All but one of the learners remain engaged with post 16 education, training or employment
- A total of 6 learners who completed their education in summer 2018 have experienced changes to their destination
- Of the 11 learners who were attending college, 8 continue to attend. One learner has now moved onto the corporate traineeship; one has moved onto a training provider and one has secured employment
- One learner who had attended the corporate traineeship has now secured employment
- One learner has left employment and is now NEET

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Children looked after education coordinator