



# Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board Action Plan 2020/21

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 2020/21					
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	2020/21 Evaluation Commentary	RP	BRAG
All our Children Looked After enjoy good physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing	In Partnership with ABUHB monitor all health assessment requirements in relation to CEL 16 to ensure they are achieved.	Monitor how the assessments were carried out throughout COVID 19	<p>The CLA Health Team across Gwent has made great progress, in adapting to the changes in line with Public Health and Government recommendations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The use of Microsoft Teams and What’s app video call enabled the engagement with young people, complete their statutory health assessments and take part in meetings, which all contribute to meet the needs of the young people on our caseloads.</p> <p>The statutory health assessments were amended and updated along with other CLA Nursing Teams across Wales in June 2020.</p> <p>In addition to this the CLA Steering Group (NHS Wales Safeguarding Network Subgroup) published The NHS Wales Health Assessment Framework for Looked After Children which provides standards of good practice for Health Boards working with children who are currently Looked After by the local authority.</p> <p>The NHS Wales Video Consulting Service which is a video consultation service rolled out by Welsh Government to offer healthcare services in a safe and secure way to see patients via a video appointment, rather than seeing them in-person and is called ‘Attend Anywhere’.</p> <p>Full update at end of 2020/21</p>	CE	
	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 and number of children from Blaenau Gwent that they are working with and those who are at risk of entering residential care.	MyST continued their work at the same level as prior to Covid and facilitated step down of children from residential in foster care and prevented children to escalate to residential	TE	

	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	All Foster Carers to receive Attachment Training to enable them to support children who are experiencing attachment and trauma based problems	Training on hold until it can be held in real time	LM	
		Explore the option of Psychology input in Placement Team using ICF grant money for prevention.	In March 2020 Sarah Brown (Clinical Psychologist) started in post within the Blaenau Gwent Placement team, working one session (half a day) a week, with Paul Price (Systemic Psychotherapist) from Gwent Community Psychology within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. Sarah and Paul offer consultation sessions to carers and foster carers. The sessions offer space to consider carer's relationships with the children, the impact of the work on their wellbeing, and think about what might help support them. The sessions are organised by the placement team, and are supported by professionals working with the carers or children, including link workers, social workers and support workers. This psychology provision is funded by the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) grant. This grant has been extended for another year until April 2022.	LM	
		Explore offering Circle of Security parenting for all Foster Carers	Training on hold until it can be held in real time	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”**

<b>Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)</b>	<b>Action (what are we going to do?)</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>2020 /2021 Evaluation Commentary</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>BRAG</b>
<b>All our Children Looked After are protected from abuse and neglect</b>	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 and detail showing what has been done to manage and reduce the risks to this cohort of children. Compare to previous work	Work completed and presented to CPB December 2020	LT	



	Identify and safely manage those CLA where exploitation of any sort is a feature of their risk management plan – report back to CPB	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 completed and presented to CPB December 2020	LT	
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**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”**

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what do we need to improve?)	How	2020 /2021 Evaluation Commentary	RP	BRAG
<b>Our Children Looked After are enabled to reach their full potential in education, training and recreation</b>	Support CLA in their learning during COVID 19 and recovery phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure CLA have necessary resources to engage in education</li> <li>• Provide educational support to carers/parents</li> <li>• Ensure school staff participate in the CLA review process and relevant staff contribute to planning meetings to support transition and school placement.</li> </ul>	<p>All CLA digitally excluded were provided with new laptops or Wi-Fi connections at the beginning of the pandemic by Children’s Services Team.</p> <p>Foster carers / Parents embraced the home learning period, and experienced good dialog with schools which has made relationships stronger.</p> <p>CLA education Coordinator has advised how the children stepped up to complete the work and how school staff and mentors adapted ways of working to support the children through the pandemic.</p>	CE	
	Consider the recommendations in the ‘An integrated approach to improving educational outcomes for Looked After Children in Wales’ report and how recommendations can be progressed at a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole school training information briefing on CLA learners to be disseminated to school staff</li> <li>• Promote ‘Trauma Informed Training’ to schools</li> <li>• CLA Education Coordinator to apply for</li> </ul>	<p>CLA friendly toolkit has now been completed and was presented to Corporate Parenting Board in December 2020 alongside the reports; -</p> <p>CLA attainment 2019-2020 CLA School Leavers destinations 2019-2020 CLA exclusion 2019-2020</p>	CE	

	local level	<p>funding to complete the diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broaden the measures of what constitutes educational outcomes for CLA in the annual education report to Corporate Parenting.</li> </ul>			
	Support carers and families to access available funding (PDG Access Grant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all those eligible for PDG Access funding are aware of the process for accessing the grant and provide any support needed to access the funding.</li> <li>• Establish a process so that this grant funding can be allocated automatically</li> </ul>	Update required for end of year	CE	
	<p>Improve communication with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) regarding CLA funding and cluster plans (CLA PDG)</p> <p>Promote 'CLA Friendly Schools'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with schools (CLA Leads/Headteachers) in the development of their cluster bids.</li> <li>• Work with the EAS to ensure that appropriate monitoring and evaluation of cluster plans takes place.</li> <li>• Work with the EAS to ensure a joined up and coordinated training programme.</li> <li>• Establish transparent and equitable sharing of information with the EAS.</li> <li>• Ensure relevant information is shared with Monitoring Evaluation and Review Group / Wider Group and with regional SEWC.</li> </ul>	<p>Updated required for end of year</p> <p>CLA friendly school's toolkit is now complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	CE	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Task and Finish Group to implement the action plan</li> <li>Develop a framework for a 'CLA friendly school'</li> <li>Test framework on a pilot group of schools and produce evaluation</li> <li>Use the evaluation to contribute to the production of a 'CLA Friendly School' good practice guide</li> <li>Raise awareness of the 'CLA friendly school' framework</li> <li>Engage with all schools to participate in the 'CLA friendly school' framework</li> <li>Deliver training programme to support 'CLA Friendly School'</li> </ul>	<p>In place</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ready to go</p> <p>In place</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ready to go</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		
	Our readiness for the ALN Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>CLA Team</li> <li>School CLA Leads</li> <li>Social Workers</li> <li>Foster Carers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Regional work has been ongoing for some time. An authority wide Task and Finish group has been established to ensure readiness at a local level and meetings are ongoing.</p>	GM	
	Monitor, review and expand the Corporate Traineeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings with Inspire to Work colleagues in Environment and the</li> </ul>	<p>The new Corporate Trainee Coordinator was appointed in August 2020 through funding from Legacy portion of Children and Communities Grant and I working on the corporate brochure.</p>	BM	

		<p>newly appointed Corporate Trainee Coordinator and devise a brochure of opportunities within BGCBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 20/21 hold an interactive, vibrant “My Career Journey” event at the General Offices for our children looked after at Secondary School age</li> </ul>	This has had to be put on hold because of COVID 19		
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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”**

<b>Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)</b>	<b>Action (what are we going to do?)</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>2020 /2021 Evaluation Commentary</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>BRAG</b>
<b>Our Children looked After children have healthy domestic, family and personal relationships</b>	<p>Promote healthy and safe relationships and behaviours from a relevant age for all our Children and training for Foster Carers on Safe and Healthy relationships.</p> <p>14+ Team to deliver a range of opportunities to consult and engage with our children to promote safe and healthy relationships</p>	<p>Explore what work is done with our children around safe and healthy relationships before the age of 14. Look at what emotional and wellbeing support is offered to CLA throughout stages of their life in EY settings, schools, colleges, at home, in placement.</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,</p>	<p>Discussions with CLA Education Lead, Healthy Schools, 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 are ongoing but have been superseded in priority by COVID 19 essential actions</p> <p>We will be exploring 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> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p><b>CB</b></p> <p><b>AR/ BT</b></p>	

		<p>then moving to planning St David's expenditure for next financial year, then developing a PA service and entitlement leaflet.</p> <p>The new facility at Beaufort Road planned for Summer 2020 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>	Work has started on the new facility and is almost complete		
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<b>Priority 5 – Our Children Looked After secure their rights and entitlements</b> <b>“ I know and understand what care, support and opportunities are available and use these to help manage, achieve and improve my wellbeing”</b>					
Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2020/21 Evaluation Commentary	RP	BRAG
	Ensure our children have a voice in the way in which we deliver and shape services.	The Care and Support Plan for children looked after is currently in process of being changed into a more user and client friendly version based on outcomes and what matters to the individual. Aim to implement the new form in WCCIS in 2020 with awareness and training sessions being planned throughout the department.	Implementation of the new Care and Support Plan which is outcome focused and much more friendly to use and understand by our children looked after is complete; use in the system and also used during the CLA reviews which started to include more discussions re outcomes for CLA and being based on What matter conversations	LM	



	<p>Ensure our children know their entitlements and can easily access them</p>	<p>Policy to be started and will be updated by Jan/Feb 2021 by 14+ team. When this has been completed, the Care Leavers Forum will help develop the leaflet outlining the entitlements.</p>	<p>This is ongoing and almost complete</p>	<p><b>BT</b></p>	
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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”**

Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)	Action (what are we going to do?)	How	2020 /2021 Evaluation Commentary	RP	BRAG
<b>Our Children Looked After children enjoy social and economic wellbeing</b>	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	Regional Fostering Framework coordinators mapping exercise of all opportunities for leisure and community activities completed	This has now been completed	<b>NC</b>	
		Engage with Aneurin Leisure to explore what opportunities they can offer children looked after.	This has been put on hold as AL has been on furlough much through COVID 19 and will be rolled over to 21/22 action plan	<b>CB/LM</b>	
		Ensure opportunities for our children to have rich opportunities in their social life is explored. linking with “Voices From Care” and maximising all trips and activities offered through this organisation	This has been put on hold through COVID 19 pandemic as socialising has not been permitted	<b>CB/LM</b>	

**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	2020/21 Evaluation Commentary	RP	BRAG

<b>All our Children Looked After live in suitable accommodation</b>	Improve and increase the accommodation options and quality available to LAC post 16 years	<p>Deliver the key priorities identified in the Accommodation Action Plan 20/21 which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating annual analysis of accommodation for care leavers</li> <li>• HSG is funding supported lodgings scheme</li> <li>• Creation of more 1 bedroom flats</li> <li>• Monitor success of Move On panel after its new update</li> <li>• Creating taster flats</li> <li>• Monitor placement moves</li> <li>• Housemate course, Cookery courses and independent living courses continue</li> </ul>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete and supported lodgings advertising and promotion scheme now in place with Llamau funded by HSG grant. We have recently appointed 3 supported lodging providers</p> <p>Creation of 10 young person flats in (Ty Parc) Tredegar is going really well had 17 clients to date. Unfortunately, 1 bedroom flats are still in short supply across the Authority and desperately needed.</p> <p>Move on panel has been a massive success the last 12-18months with quite a lot of young people accessing secured accommodation and doing well in the accommodation with assistance from the RSL and Sian Staley.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Will be possible with extension to Beaufort Road</p>	BT/M C/CB	
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<b>Priority 8 – Leadership - The Corporate Parenting Agenda is owned across the local authority and by partner agencies</b>					
<b>Outcome (how do we want it to look in the future?)</b>	<b>Action (what are we going to do?)</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>2020/21 Evaluation Commentary</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>BRA G</b>
<b>The Corporate Parenting Agenda is owned across</b>	Ensure all agencies, members and employees of the local authority are clear of their corporate	Continue to coordinate and organise an annual Corporate Parenting awareness raising event for members, officers of authority.	Has not been possible in 2020 due to COVID 19	<b>CB</b>	

**the local authority and by partner agencies**

parenting responsibilities.

Develop processes that evidence inter departmental work;-  
Corporate Traineeship Brochure  
My Career Journey event

This has started with appointment of Corporate apprenticeship officer

**BM**

