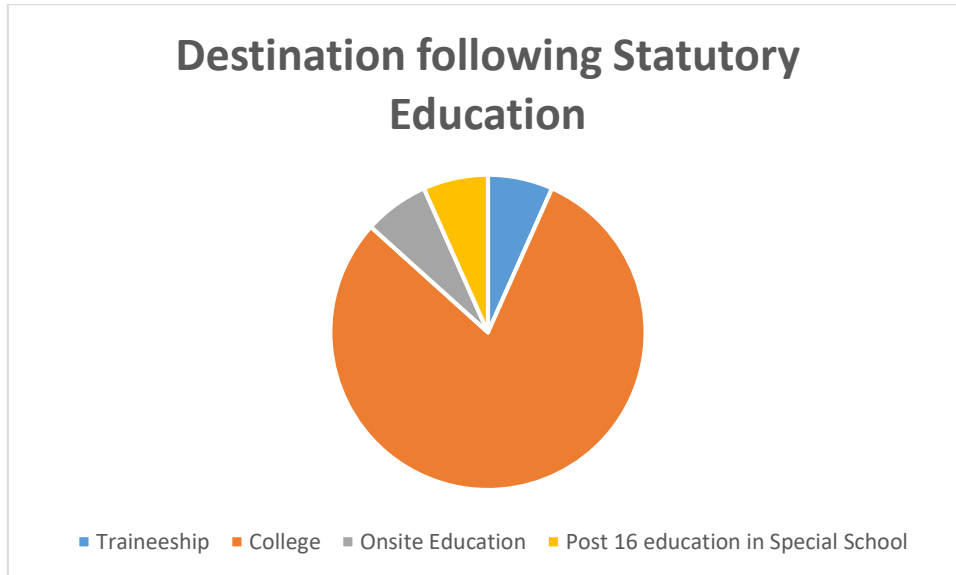


## Report to Blaenau Gwent Corporate Parenting Board 14.12.2020 re: children looked after who left statutory education in summer 2020

During academic year 2019-20, a total of 15 young people who were looked after by Blaenau Gwent completed their statutory school studies. All but 2 children were awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020. All 15 children are engaged in post 16 learning opportunities.



5 of the young people who were looked after and completed their statutory studies in summer 2020 had additional learning needs and 2 had a statement of special educational needs. 13 of the 15 children attended mainstream school settings, 2 of which attended resource bases attached to mainstream schools for children with complex needs. The remaining 2 children attended Local Authority Special School settings.

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### Learner 1

Learner 1 became looked after in April 2019, part way through their key stage 4 studies. Learner 1 is voluntarily accommodated. At the point that Learner 1 became looked after they were required to change school where they remained to complete their statutory studies. Learner 1 has experienced a number of changes of foster placement during the time that they have been looked after before moving to a supported living setting in April 2020.

Learner 1 does not appear on the SEN code of practice but did access an alternative off site provision organised by the school to support with engagement for part of their timetable. Learner 1 was not awarded any recognised qualifications in summer 2020. Since September 2020 Learner 1 has engaged in the Learning4Life engagement traineeship through Llamau.

## **Learner 2**

Learner 2 became looked after in June 2017 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 September 2020.

Learner 2 has a statement of special educational needs and associated difficulties in the areas of social, emotional and behavioural development as well as cognition and learning.

Learner 2 attended a resource base for children with complex needs attached to a local mainstream secondary school. Learner 2 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition. Transport was provided to ensure consistency of schooling when Learner 2 became looked after.

Learner 2 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in summer 2020 in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2020, Learner 2 has accessed a course in Independent Living Skills at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 3**

Learner 3 became looked after in August 2009 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 3 experienced two changes of foster placement whilst being looked after before returning to the care of their parent under Placement with Parent Regulations in 2015.

Learner 3 does not have additional learning needs and 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.

Non-attendance was an ongoing issue for Learner 3 towards the later part of their secondary schooling. Learner 3 was supported by the school to engage in an alternative off site provision and afforded a package of 1:1 support via a Teaching Assistant at school which was successful in re-engaging Learner 3 back into education. Learner 3 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020 and since September 2020 has been undertaking a course in Beauty Therapy at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 4**

Learner 4 became looked after in August 2007 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 4 has experienced two changes of foster placement 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, remaining at the same school for the duration of their secondary schooling.

Learner 4 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020 achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2020 Learner 4 has been undertaking a course in Health and Social Care at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 5**

Learner 5 became looked after in August 2019, part way through their key stage 4 studies and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 5 has experienced two previous episodes in care, one of which was part way through their key stage 4 studies when Learner 5 resided in a foster placement. During the most recent care episode Learner 5 has resided at home under Placement with Parent Regulations.

Learner 5 does not have additional learning needs but did receive a number of fixed term exclusions whilst in school and was subject to a Pastoral Support Plan for the later part of their key stage 4 studies. Poor attendance at school was also an issue.

Learner 5 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition, remaining at the same mainstream secondary school for the duration of their secondary schooling.

Learner 5 was awarded recognised qualification in summer 2020. Since September 2020 Learner 5 has undertaken a course in Childcare at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 6**

Learner 6 became looked after in June 2019, part way through their key stage 4 studies and is voluntarily accommodated. Learner 6 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming a child looked after.

Learner 6 does not have additional learning needs and attended mainstream school. Learner 6 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition, remaining at the same school since becoming looked after.

Learner 6 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020, achieving a number of GCSE qualifications in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2020, Learner 6 has accessed a course in Equine Studies at Coleg Gwent

## **Learner 7**

Learner 7 became looked after in June 2019, part way through their key stage 4 studies and is voluntarily accommodated. Learner 7 has experienced changes of care placements in both residential and secure settings during the time that they have been looked after.

Learner 7 has additional learning needs with associated difficulties in terms of social, emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. Learner 7 accessed on site education via the secure care setting for part of their key stage 4 studies before joining the Local Authority Special School setting for children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties upon their exit out of secure and back into residential care. Non-attendance was an ongoing issue for the remainder of their time in school.

Learner 7 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020. Upon their return to a secure care setting in June 2020, Learner 7 engaged in the onsite education available via the provision. Learner 7 is currently working towards further recognised qualifications.

## **Learner 8**

Learner 8 became looked after in March 2017 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 8 experienced one change of placement in June 2018 upon return to the care of their parent under placement with Parent Regulations.

Learner 8 attended a mainstream school provision throughout their education and does not have any additional learning needs.

Learner 8 did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition and attended the same secondary school for the duration of their secondary education. Learner 8 was identified as a More Able and Talented Pupil. Learner 8 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications, achieving GCSEs in line with their ability and since September 2020 has been studying A Levels in Law, Psychology and Combined English at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 9**

Learner 9 became looked after in October 2013 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 9 has experienced a number of changes of foster placement whilst being looked after before moving to a supported living setting in January 2020.

Learner 9 has experienced two changes of primary school before transition to the Local Authority Special School for children with Complex Needs.

Learner 9 has a statement of special educational needs with a diagnosis of Autism. Learner 9 did not achieve any recognised qualifications but instead worked toward a curriculum tailored to their individual needs. Learner 9 has remained as a year 12 pupil at the Local Authority's special school for children with complex needs.

## **Learner**

Learner 10 became looked after in August 2010 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 10 has experienced one change of foster placement during the time that they have been looked after.

Learner 10 has no additional learning needs and has attended mainstream school provision. Learner 10 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 10 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020 in line with their ability and expected outcomes including a number of GCSE qualifications. Since September 2020 Learner 10 has been working towards a level 2 course in Childcare at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 11**

Learner 11 has been looked after since August 2012 and is subject to a Care Order. Since becoming looked after Learner 11 has resided with grandparents.

Learner 11 has no additional learning needs and did not experience any changes to their school provision except for the purpose of transition. Learner 11 remained at the

same mainstream secondary school to complete their statutory studies. Learner 11 was identified as a More Able and Talented Pupil.

Learner 11 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in summer 2020 in line with their ability and expected outcomes including a number of GCSE qualifications. Since September 2020 Learner 11 has been undertaking a Health and Social Care Course at Coleg Gwent.

### **Learner 12**

Learner 12 has been looked after since May 2011 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 12 experienced two very short term foster placements shortly after becoming looked after before moving to his long term foster placement in March 2012 where Learner 12 continues to reside.

Learner 12 has no additional learning needs, attended mainstream education provision and did not experience any changes of school other than for the purpose of transition.

Learner 12 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications, achieving GCSEs in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2020 Learner 12 has been studying Public Services at Coleg Gwent.

### **Learner 13**

Learner 13 became looked after in September 2019, part way through their key stage 4 studies and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 13 has remained in the same foster placement since becoming looked after and has continued to attend the same mainstream school setting.

Learner 13 has additional learning needs with a diagnosis of Global Development Delay.

Learner 13 was awarded recognised qualifications in summer 2020 and since September 2020 has been studying towards a level one electrical installation Course at Coleg Gwent.

### **Learner 14**

Learner 14 became looked after in January 2016 and is subject to a Care Order.

Learner 14 does not have any additional learning needs and attends mainstream school. Learner 14 has experienced one change of foster placement since being looked after. Learner 14 moved foster placement in August 2018 to be alongside siblings. The change of foster placement did not result in a change of school and Learner 14 remained at the same secondary school provision for the duration of their secondary education.

Learner 14 was awarded a range of recognised qualification in summer 2020 in line with their ability and expected outcomes. Since September 2020 Learner 14 has been studying towards a level 3 course in Childcare at Coleg Gwent.

## **Learner 15**

Learner 15 became looked after in March 2014 and is subject to a Care Order. Learner 15 has experienced a number of changes of foster placement whilst they have been looked after. Learner 15 moved to residential care in January 2018 and at this point experienced a change of school.

Learner 15 has a statement of Special Educational Needs with presenting difficulties in the areas of social, emotional behavioural development and cognitive development.

Learner 15 attended mainstream education provision at primary level before moving to a resource base attached to a mainstream school upon transition to secondary school.

Learner 15 was awarded a number of recognised qualifications in line with their ability. Since September 2020 Learner 15 has been undertaking a course in the introduction into Further Education Independent Living Skills course at Gower College.

## Key Messages

- A third of young people who completed their statutory studies in summer 2020 had additional learning needs. This did not however preclude them from achieving recognised qualifications
- Consistency of school placement was maintained for learners wherever possible
- A third of young people became looked after part way through their key stage 4 studies. 2 young people were required to change school at the point of becoming looked after.
- 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
- Becoming looked after or experiencing a change of care placement in key stage 4 does not necessarily impact on learner outcomes.
- All young people are engaged with post 16 learning opportunities

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