

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015 / 2016

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

21st DECEMBER 2015

**JOINT REPORT OF THE GROUP
 DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY &
 CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND
 TEMPORARY DIRECTOR OF
 EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

Agenda Item No:4

**RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE
 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWO
 SCRUTINY WORKING GROUPS IN
 RELATION TO LOOKED AFTER
 CHILDREN**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with information in the form of an Action Plan that shows how the recommendations of the two Scrutiny Working Groups made in relation to Looked After children will be taken forward and monitored.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the actions proposed to meet the recommendations made and agree that the progress of this action plan be monitored by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

3. BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 During 2014 the former Community and Children Services and Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committees each agreed to form a working group in respect of issues relating to Looked After Children. Due to the change in the Council's scrutiny framework both working group's reports were presented to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on the 21st September 2015 when the findings and recommendations of both reports were endorsed and the reports were subsequently passed to the appropriate Cabinet Members.

- 3.2 This resulted in fifteen recommendations needing to be considered, some falling within Education's remit only, some within Children's Services remit only and some which are cross cutting.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny reports were formally considered by Cabinet at the meeting held on 24th November 2015, which was attended by the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee when all recommendations were agreed in principle. It was also agreed that the reports be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board for information.
- 3.4 To ensure that there is an outcome for each of the recommendations the Interim Service Director for Children's Services and the Interim Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion, in discussion with the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Education and Children's Social Services, Equalities have developed an action plan which sets out the actions needed to address the recommendations made and also sets timescales and names of those who will be responsible for the actions.
- 3.5 The Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for Members' consideration.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**ITEM 4: RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE TWO SCRUTINY WORKING GROUPS IN RELATION TO LOOKED
AFTER CHILDREN**

Background Papers

- Report of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee presented to Cabinet 24th November 2015
- Decision Notice – Cabinet 24th November 2015

**Officer to contact: Mrs A Edwards, Scrutiny Support Officer
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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

Recommendation 1: Review the current Pupil Education Plan system and place focus on identifying the barriers to the timely completion of PEPS				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. An analysis of 2014/15 (academic year) PEP data to be undertaken and interrogated to identify the barriers to timely completion.	December 2015	Head of Educational Psychology/PEP Co-ordinator.		
2. Joint Education/Children's Services action plan to be devised to address the identified barriers and to improve awareness of the importance of PEPs.	March 2016	Head of Educational Psychology/Head of Children's Services.		

Recommendation 2: Develop a training programme for Designated Teachers for LAC, education staff and foster carers on the needs of LAC				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Training and support for Designated LAC Teachers to be provided to improve skills, knowledge and understanding about LAC and to promote the sharing of good practice.	April 2016	LAC Co-ordinator		
2. Delivery of training for foster carers with a focus on increasing confidence and competence in supporting the education of RCT LAC pupils.	March 2016	Educational Psychologist for LAC (Senior Practitioner)		
3. Training for governors to be developed on the roles and responsibilities of governing bodies in relation to children and young people who are looked after.	June 2016	LAC Co-ordinator		

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

Recommendation 3: Develop a network for Designated Teachers for LAC				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Network for Designated Teachers for children and young people who are looked after to be established.	March 2016	LAC Co-ordinator, Educational Psychologist for LAC (Senior Practitioner)		

Recommendation 4: Improve collation and interrogation of data to track and monitor outcomes of LAC (education)				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Educational datasets in relation to children and young people who are looked after to be revised.	November 2015	Acting Head of Access and Inclusion/LAC Co-ordinator	Completed	
2. Local PIs to be revised to ensure that agreed datasets are collated and monitored.	February 2016	Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator		

Recommendation 5: Clear processes are put in place to enable schools to access grant funding for LAC once the submitted plan to CSC is approved.				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Costed plan to administer the Pupil Deprivation Plan for LAC is implemented.	April 2016	LAC Co-ordinator / Head of Educational Psychology	Ongoing implementation	

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

Recommendation 6: Consideration is given to streamlining the data sets collated across agencies and submitting a joint report to Scrutiny on the outcomes for LAC.				
ACTION	TIMESCALES	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Datasets to be agreed across Education/Children's Services and local PIs adapted to reflect these	December 2016	Service Director of Children's Services/Acting Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion	Work in progress	
2. Joint report to be submitted to the C&YP Scrutiny Committee	April 2016	Service Director of Children's Services/Acting Service Director for Access, Engagement and Inclusion		

Recommendation 7: The service aims for year on year reduction in LAC figures with specific targets being set				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Children's Services will produce a LAC Reduction Strategy as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014	March 2016	Director of Children's Services	The LAC Reduction Strategy production is monitored through the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board. The reduction in LAC	

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

			will continue to be monitored through the authorities' Performance Group ,the Children's Services Transformational Group and LAC Action Plan Group	
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Recommendation 8: Scrutiny monitors the impact of the new Regional Adoption Service.

ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Reports will be provided to Scrutiny as part of their work programme	On going	Scrutiny Support Officer	First report to be tabled on the 21 st December 2015	Complete

Recommendation 9: Children's Commissioning Consortium produces annual reports for Corporate Parenting Board.

ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Reports to be provided to Corporate Parenting Board annually		Service Director Children's Services	The production of a report will be	

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

			included within the Corporate Parenting Board's work programme	
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Recommendation 10: Children's Commissioning Consortium is supported in its aim to attract more specialist placements to Wales					
	ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1.	See above			See Above	Completed

Recommendation 11: Scrutiny monitors the measures to maximise the occupancy levels of both in house residential and foster care placements					
	ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1.	To produce an action plan that set out how the skills of Foster Carers are to be developed to care for children and young people with challenging behaviour.	March 2016	Service Director, Children's Services	Work has already started on a draft plan of action. The progress and implementation dates are being monitored by the LAC Action	

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

			Group.	
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Recommendation 12: Children's Services consider improving supports to current foster carers, drawing on the skills of others within the service, Miskin, residential care staff

ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. To produce an action plan that set out how the skills of Foster Carers are to be developed to care for children and young people with challenging behaviour.	March 2016	Service Director, Children's Services	Work has already started on a draft plan of action. The progress and implementation dates are being monitored by the LAC Action Group.	

Recommendation 13: Children's Services develop specific foster carers with the skills and training to manage children with more acute behavioural problems

ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. This is a priority within for the LAC Action Plan Group and a plan is being developed to ensure that the skills of Foster Carers are being developed and that support can be provided from Miskin and Residential Staff		Service Director, Children's Services	The LAC Action Plan Group will monitor the progress of the	Complete

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - September 2015
LAC Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

			plan to enhance foster carers skills and develop more appropriate in house placements for children and young people	
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Recommendation 14: Executive through the Local Service Board supports the progression of the development of the Community Intensive Therapy Team				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
Executive through the Local Service Board supports the progression of the development of the Community Intensive Therapy Team				Ongoing

Recommendation 15: A representative from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service is invited to Scrutiny in 12 months time				
ACTION	TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE LEAD	PROGRESS	STATUS
1. Invite to be issued in 2016 as part of the Scrutiny work programme		Scrutiny Support Officer		

