

CARDIFF COUNCIL

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

24 April 2018

EDUCATION ITEM: THE PERFORMANCE OF CARDIFF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2016-2017

Reason for the Report

1. This report provides an analysis of the educational outcomes for the academic year 2016-2017 of Cardiff Council Looked After Children in years 2, 6, 9 and 11:
 - Cardiff Council Looked After Children educated in Cardiff Schools
 - Cardiff Council Looked After Children educated in schools or settings that are out of county

The children identified as Looked After for the purposes of this report are those identified by Children's Services at the time of PLASC return in January 2017. The cohort is constantly changing due to adoption and children moving in and out of care.

Overview of outcomes of Cardiff Looked After Children

2. Whilst there have been some improvements for children who are looked after in Cardiff, the results remain too low when compared with their peers. Outcomes for children who are looked after and who are educated in a Cardiff School are higher than if they are educated out of county at all key stages.

	Cardiff Corporate Parent 2016	Cardiff Corporate Parent 2017	Direction of travel	Cardiff CLA In Cardiff Schools 2016	Cardiff CLA In Cardiff Schools 2017	Direction of travel	Wales CIN Census 2016
Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator	71.4% (15 out of 21 pupils)	53.8% (14 out of 26 pupils)	↓	84.6% (11 out of 13 pupils)	68.8% (11 out of 16 pupils)	↓	64%
Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator	70.4% (19 out of 27 pupils)	76.7% (23 out of 30 pupils)	↑	68.4% (17 out of 19 pupils)	80.9% (17 out of 21 pupils)	↑	66%
Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator	57.1% (20 out of 35 pupils)	52.9% (27 out of 51 pupils)	↓	50% (8 out of 16 pupils)	73.3% (22 out of 30 pupils)	↑	57%
Key Stage 4 Level 2+ Threshold	15.2% (7 out of 46 pupils)	0% (cohort 53 pupils)	↓	12.5% (4 out of 32 pupils)	0% (cohort 19 pupils)	↓	23%

3. The results for the 2016-2017 academic year in some groups, especially at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6), build on the improvements seen last year. (may need to reword as it may be noted that 5 out of 8 indicators above didn't improve) They indicate that the actions put in place to address longstanding shortcomings in provision are starting to have positive impact on improving outcomes for Cardiff Looked After Children. These actions included:

- A focus on increasing the transparency of data and a central robust tracking system. Information is gathered from schools on a termly basis and added to the central Virtual tracker. This was highlighted by Estyn as excellent practice.
- A stronger working relationship between the local authority and the Challenge Advisors in the Consortium ensuring that schools receive the appropriate degree of challenge.
- Stronger, effective partnerships with Children's Services have meant quicker responses to concerns and removal of barriers impeding pupil progress.
- Discussion in Team Around the School meetings focusses on the progress of and provision for Looked After Children.

**Comparative performance of Looked After Children
Foundation Phase (FPh)**

4. There were twenty-six children who were looked after by Cardiff LA in year 2 at the time of PLASC (January 2017). Eleven of these children were educated outside of Cardiff in mainstream schools, fifteen in Cardiff schools, fourteen mainstream and one in a special school. The proportion of Cardiff Looked After Children reaching the expected level was greater if in a Cardiff school than if educated in a school in another area. The overall percentage for all Cardiff Looked After Children reaching the expected level was 17.6 ppt below the previous year and 10.2 ppt below the All Wales census figure for 2016 (latest published).

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 2 cohort

SEN status	Foundation Phase Total SEN	Statement	School Action Plus	School Action
2016/17	40% (10)	12% (3)	20% (5)	8% (2)

Key Stage 2 (KS2)

5. There were thirty children who were looked after by Cardiff LA at the time of PLASC (January 2017). Nine of these children were educated outside of Cardiff in mainstream schools, twenty-one in Cardiff mainstream schools. Twenty-three of the thirty children achieved the CSI, 6.3 ppt increase on the previous year. The children who were educated in Cardiff schools did better than children educated out of county with 80.9% achieving the CSI. When compared to the latest published Children in Need (CIN) Cardiff children are doing well at this key stage with attainment 10ppt above this all Wales average figure of 66%.

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 6 cohort

SEN status	Key Stage 2 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2016/17	53% (16)	13% (4)	20% (6)	20% (6)

Key Stage 3 (KS3)

6. There were fifty-one children looked after by Cardiff in Year 9 at the time of PLASC. Twenty-one children were educated out of county and thirty educated in Cardiff schools. There was an overall decrease of 4.2ppt of Cardiff Looked After Children achieving the CSI. However, there was a significant increase in those children achieving this indicator if educated in a Cardiff school. In 2015/16, 50% of children achieved this indicator if in a Cardiff school and in 2016/17, 73.3%. This figure is 16.3ppt above the latest CIN published All Wales figure of 57.1%.

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 9 cohort

SEN Status	KS3 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2016/17	69% (35)	25% (13) (2 under assessment) (13)	19.6% (10)	19.6% (10)

Key Stage 4 (KS4)

7. Fifty-three children were looked after at the time of PLASC in (January 2017). This compared to forty-six in the previous year. Thirty-four of these children were living and educated out of Cardiff many in specialist settings with only nineteen educated in Cardiff schools.
8. Wales introduced a new set of GCSE qualifications for mathematics, numeracy, English Language, Welsh language, English literature and Welsh literature in 2017. New rules for reporting school performance measures were also introduced in 2017. These changes have made a significant difference to the results at Key Stage 4, particularly at L2+ and Level 2 thresholds. It is therefore not possible to compare the outcomes in 2017 with previous years.
9. However, the results were very poor and there weren't any children who achieved the L2+ threshold. The cohort was very complex. 81% were on the SEN register and 53% of them had a Statement of SEN. 25% of them had become Looked After in the last two years. The number of children placed out of county is another indicator of the complexity of this cohort of children.

Year	Total pupils	L1	L2	L2 +
2016/17	53	18 36%	6 11%	0 0%

SEN Status	KS4 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2016/17	81% (43)	53% (27, 1 under assessment)	13.2% (7)	15% (8)

Further actions to improve performance

10. There will be robust discussion re the arrangement with the consortium about PDG LAC funding 18/19 to ensure Cardiff Looked after Children benefit from this additional funding.

11. The LACE team in Cardiff will work closely with the Consortium Lead for Looked After Children to ensure schools in Cardiff benefit from additional support and training from the region.
12. Joint meetings with the Education EMT and Children's services EMT will focus on driving up standards and improving provision in Cardiff schools and ensuring robust monitoring of provision of children educated outside the LA. We know that Looked After Children educated in Cardiff achieve better educational outcomes so we need to be jointly planning for this to be possible for more children.
13. Further commitment from all Education teams will be formalised to ensure they have looked after Children as a priority on team plans and they are clear about their role in improving their outcomes. All children who didn't achieve the CSI are being followed up by the appropriate specialist teams.
14. There will be continued focus on linking more closely with schools through termly designated teacher forums. Forums will have clear agendas focussed on promoting good practice through school-to-school support and on improving attainment outcomes for Looked After Children.
15. The Looked After Education Co-ordinator (LACE) will attend social worker team meetings on a regular basis to ensure good communication of important issues.
16. Working with partners such as Admiral will be increased to provide additional mentoring support for Looked After Children in Cardiff schools.
17. We will gather the views of school age looked after children to share with schools and improve understanding of the needs of this extremely vulnerable group.
18. We will analyse in greater depth the reasons behind KS4 lack of achievement and identify changes that can be made.
19. We will bench mark our performance against English core cities as well as authorities in Wales who have a similar number of Looked After Children to identify any good practice which could enhance Cardiff's practice.

Key Factors

20. To continue to ensure that there are excellent process and systems in place for joint working between Education and Children's Services.
21. To continue to improve the provision available in Cardiff schools to meet the needs of children with a range of additional learning needs (ALN).
22. To place children in Cardiff where possible.

Financial Implications

23. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Legal Implications

24. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To consider the report, actions to improve performance and key factors.
- To identify any further actions the Committee may wish to recommend.

Gillian James
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