

BRIEFING REPORT

PERFORMANCE OF CARDIFF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN 2018-2019

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2020

Performance of Cardiff Looked After Children 2018-2019

Background

1. Educational outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff have improved over the past five years, reflecting the focus on education as a key priority for Cardiff at the heart of the Council's Capital Ambition:

"A good education provides the best start in life and remains the surest route out of poverty. We will continue to improve and invest in our schools and to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life."

2. In October 2019, the council launched 'Cardiff 2030: a ten year vision for a capital city of learning and opportunity', building on progress made since the launch of 'Cardiff 2020' in 2016.
3. Against this overall improving picture, 'Cardiff 2030' highlights the continuing importance of focused action in a number of areas, including the continuing need to improve educational outcomes for Looked After Children.
4. This report provides an analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2018/19 for children in the care of Cardiff Local Authority and identifies the main strengths and shortcomings in performance. It also sets out future key actions.

1. Introduction

This report provides an analysis of the educational outcomes for the academic year 2018-2019 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 on March 31st 2019. The cohort is constantly changing due to adoption and children moving in and out of care. There has been a

continual increase in the Looked After population over the last five years, increasing by a third during that time and now well over 950 children/young people.

2. Overview of outcomes of Cardiff Looked After Children

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	Cardiff Corporate Parent 2018	Cardiff Corporate Parent 2019	CLA In Cardiff Schools 2016	CLA In Cardiff Schools 2017	CLA In Cardiff Schools 2018	CLA In Cardiff Schools 2019	Wales CIN Census 2017
Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator	71.4% (15 out of 21 pupils)	53.8% (14 out of 26 pupils)	69.4% (25 out of 36 pupils)	57% (28 out of 49 pupils)	84.6% (11 out of 13 pupils)	68.8% (11 out of 16 pupils)	75.0% (18 out of 24 pupils)	77% (20 out of 26 pupils)	61%
Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator	70.4% (19 out of 27 pupils)	76.7% (23 out of 30 pupils)	84.2% (32 out of 38 pupils)	70.83% (34 out of 48 pupils)	68.4% (17 out of 19 pupils)	80.9% (17 out of 21 pupils)	91.2% (31 out of 34 pupils)	75% (27 out of 36 pupils)	69%
Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator	57.1% (20 out of 35 pupils)	52.9% (27 out of 51 pupils)	70.7% (29 out of 41 pupils)	68.75% (33 out of 48 pupils)	50% (8 out of 16 pupils)	73.3% (22 out of 30 pupils)	71.9% (23 out of 32 pupils)	71.4% (20 out of 28 pupils)	60%
Key Stage 4 Level 2+ Threshold	15.2% (7 out of 46 pupils)	0% (cohort 53 pupils)	14.3% (7 out of 49 pupils)	7.6% (6 out of 79 pupils)	12.5% (4 out of 32 pupils)	0% (cohort 19 pupils)	25.0% (6 out of 24 pupils)	9.6% (5 out of 52 pupils)	12%

Comparative performance of Looked After Children

3. Foundation Phase (FPh)

There were thirty-six children who were looked after by Cardiff LA in year 2 at the time at the end of March 2019. Twenty-three of these children were educated outside of Cardiff, twenty-six in Cardiff schools. 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 12.4 ppt below the previous year.

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 2 cohort

SEN status	Foundation Phase Total SEN	Statement	School Action Plus	School Action
2018/19 In Cardiff Schools	10	1 (1 under assessment)	2	6
2018/19 OOC	13	4	4	5

4. Key Stage 2 (KS2)

There were forty-eight children who were looked after by Cardiff LA at the end of March 2019. Twelve of these children were educated outside of Cardiff in mainstream schools, thirty-six in Cardiff schools. Thirty-four of the forty-eight children achieved the CSI, 13.1 ppt down on the previous year. The children who were educated in Cardiff schools did better than children educated out of county with 75% achieving the CSI. When compared to the latest published Children in Need (CIN) Cardiff children are doing well at this key stage with attainment above the all Wales average figure of 69%.

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 6 cohort

SEN status	Key Stage 2 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2018/19 in Cardiff Schools	18	6 + 1 under assessment	4	8
2018/19 OOC	12	7	3	2

5. Key Stage 3 (KS3)

There were forty-eight children looked after by Cardiff in Year 9 at the end of March 2019. Twenty children were educated out of county and twenty-eight educated in Cardiff schools. There was an overall decrease of 1.95 ppt of Cardiff Looked After Children achieving the CSI. However, the increase in those children achieving this indicator if educated in a Cardiff school was more or less maintained from the previous year. This is 11 ppt above the All Wales figure.

Special Educational Needs in Corporate parenting Year 9 cohort

SEN Status	KS3 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2018/19 Cardiff Schools	17	2	9	6
2018/19 OOC	12	7	4	1

6. Key Stage 4 (KS4)

Seventy-nine young people were looked after in Year 11 at the end of March 2019. This compared to forty-nine in the previous year. Twenty-seven of these young people were living and educated out of Cardiff many in specialist settings with fifty-two educated in Cardiff schools or Cardiff located alternative provision.

62% of the seventy-nine young people were on the SEN register and 28% of them had a Statement of SEN. This level of having a Statement is at least seven times more than a normal population sample. The main area of Special Educational Needs identified for this cohort is Behavioural, Emotional and Social needs.

There were twelve young people out of the seventy-nine who did not achieve any qualifications. Of these twelve, three were in independent living. One of these young people had been in 12 placements and one in 8 placements since coming into care. One young person was in prison and one has profound learning difficulties. Two children were undertaking ESOL courses and one child had refused all endeavours to engage him in education. Twenty six (33%) came into care between 2017 and 2019. Of these twenty six young people, fifteen did not reach the Level 1 threshold and eight did not get any qualifications.

There are six Looked After young people who are not in education, employment or training at this time.

Year	Total pupils	No quals sat	Not enough quals to meet threshold	L1	L2	L2 +
2018/19	79	12 (15%)	23 (29%)	39 (49%)	13 (16.5%)	6 (7.5%)
In Cardiff	52	7 (13.5%)	13 (25%)	20 (38.5%)	7 (13.5%)	5 (9.6%)
OOO	27	5 (18.5%)	10 (37%)	6 (22%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)

SEN Status	KS4 Total SEN	Statement	School Action plus	School Action
2018/19 In Cardiff Schools	25	9	13	4
2018/19 OOO	24	13	8	3

7. Attendance

The attendance of Looked After Children educated in Cardiff schools in the primary phase is very good. At the end of Foundation Phase, the percentage attendance is 94.80%. For Key Stage 2, it is 94.89%. The overall primary attendance figure is 94.76%.

The attendance of looked after children educated in the secondary phase is significantly below that of all pupils. At the end of Key Stage 3, the percentage attendance is 87.12%. For Key Stage 4, it is 73.25%. The overall secondary attendance figure 93.8%.

The drop in attendance through the key stages links directly to the drop in overall attainment.

Stage	Sum of Attendance	Sum of Unauthorised	Sum of Possible Attendance	% Attendance	% Unauthorised
Foundation Phase	14395	678	16390	87.83%	4.14%
-2	606	16	928	65.30%	1.72%
-1	4612	496	5673	81.30%	8.74%
0	9177	166	9789	93.75%	1.70%
Key Stage 1	23473	296	24761	94.80%	1.20%
1	13371	219	14154	94.47%	1.55%
2	10102	77	10607	95.24%	0.73%
Key Stage 2	46158	396	48646	94.89%	0.81%
3	10742	78	11124	96.57%	0.70%
4	9597	31	9987	96.09%	0.31%
5	12779	162	13335	95.83%	1.21%
6	13040	125	14200	91.83%	0.88%
Key Stage 3	32729	555	37566	87.12%	1.48%
7	10767	69	11820	91.09%	0.58%
8	11583	95	13225	87.58%	0.72%
9	10379	391	12521	82.89%	3.12%
Key Stage 4	29509	2916	40285	73.25%	7.24%
10	11514	505	14544	79.17%	3.47%
11	17995	2411	25741	69.91%	9.37%
Post-16	4873	850	7744	62.93%	10.98%
12	3922	836	6594	59.48%	12.68%
13	951	14	1150	82.70%	1.22%

8. What we are doing well

- We have focussed on increasing the transparency of data and a central robust tracking system. Our central Virtual tracker is being used effectively to track Looked After children. This was highlighted by Estyn as excellent practice.
- We have stronger working relationship between the local authority and the Challenge Advisors in the Consortium ensuring that schools receive the appropriate degree of challenge. They are updated on a regular basis to the number and year group of Looked After Children in their schools. Any particular concerns are raised in termly meetings.
- Stronger, effective partnerships with Children's Services have meant quicker responses to concerns and removal of barriers impeding pupil progress.
- Education teams have all committed pledges to support Looked After Children in their joint role as Corporate parents.
- A new PEP format and a new system of responsibility for completing PEPs by designated teachers in schools was initiated in September 2019. This will be an on-going development priority but already there are improvements to note. Historically

only 20% of Looked After Children on the system had a PEP at any one time. As of January 2020 76% school age children have a PEP dated within the last year and 57% of these have a new format ePEP. These are being monitored closely to identify support needs and involvement of all key stakeholders.

9. Further actions to improve the outcomes for Looked After Children

- 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.
- Education will work closely with Children's Services to re-launch an effective Corporate Parenting Strategy that fully engages and reflects the views of Young People that are in local authority care.
- 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
- Working with partners to provide additional mentoring support for Looked After Children in Cardiff schools will be explored further and a stronger focus on Looked after Children's well-being needs and mental health will be a priority.
- We will analyse in greater depth the reasons behind KS4 lack of achievement and identify changes that can be made and additional support that can be given.
- Additional staffing to support Looked After Children within the Education Directorate will be explored and the work on improving and monitoring the PEPs to identify underachievement will be central to improving the performance of Looked After Children.

Gill James (Achievement Leade (Key Groups) Education