

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
17 NOVEMBER 2015**

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Looked After Children's Performance in Cardiff Schools 2014-2015

Reason for this Report

1. This report provides an initial analysis of educational outcomes for the academic year 2014-2015 of Cardiff Looked After Children (LAC) in Cardiff Schools and identifies the main strengths and shortcomings in performance. Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 3 (KS3) results are final, based upon actual performance data published by Welsh Government.
2. Key Stage 4 analysis is based upon the provisional results reported by schools. In some aspects the results are still incomplete or awaiting the outcome of appeals. We will also ensure that we report this year on Cardiff LAC educated outside of Cardiff LA. We are awaiting a summary report from Welfare Call the organisation that collects this information for us.

Overview of outcomes of Cardiff Looked After Children in Cardiff Schools

3. These results for the 2014-2015 academic year build on the improvements seen last year. They indicate that the actions put in place to address longstanding shortcomings in provision are now starting to have positive impact on improving outcomes for Looked After Children. Despite this strengthening picture, outcomes at the end of each key stage and especially at Key Stage 4 are still far too low.

Comparative performance of LAC

	Cardiff LAC 2015 provisional	Cardiff FSM 2015	Cardiff All Pupils 2015	Wales Children in need census 2014
Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator	75%	76.7%	86.7%	58%
Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator	56%	76.7%	87.8%	59%
Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator	38%	66.5%	83.4%	46%
Key Stage 4 Level 2+ Threshold	17.1%	30.7%*	59.4%	17%

Foundation Phase

4. The proportion of pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Outcome Indicator (FPOI) is 75% that is 15 out of the 20 LAC in Year 2. This is an improvement on the previous two years. This compares to the figure of 86.7% of all pupils in Cardiff. The Cardiff LAC attainment 2015 figure is substantially above the latest published Wales LAC figure 2014 of 58%.

Key Stage 2

5. There has been a smaller improvement in the percentage of pupils reaching the expected level at Key Stage 2 than in the Foundation Phase in 2015. The proportion of pupils achieving the CSI was 56%, based on 9 of 16 LAC pupils in the cohort. This is well below the Cardiff figure of all pupils which is 87.8% and just below the Wales figure 2014 for LAC of 59%. 7 of 16 (44%) of this cohort were on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register and 5 of 16 (31%) of these pupils achieved Level 3 in the main indicators.

Key Stage 3

6. The proportion of Looked After Children reaching the expected level at Key Stage 3 (KS3) also continues to increase but remains below that of all pupils at this key stage in Cardiff schools. In 2015 the proportion of pupils achieving the CSI was 38%, 9 of the 24 LAC in the cohort. This is well below the 83.4% of all pupils achieving the CSI in Cardiff. It is below the Wales LAC figure for 2014 of 45%.

Key Stage 4

7. The cohort in Cardiff schools in 2015 increased in size from the previous year from 28 pupils to 35 pupils. There was an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving each threshold. 6 of the 35 pupils (17.1%) achieved level 2+ threshold compared to the previous year when only 3 pupils achieved this threshold. This matches the percentage of Looked After Children achieving this indicator in 2014 across Wales. 95% of the cohort achieved at least one qualification.

Cardiff LAC in Cardiff Schools KS4 Cardiff LAC in Cardiff Schools KS4

Year	Total pupils	L1	L2	L2 +	All pupils Cardiff	Wales LAC L2+
2013	33	21 (63.6%)	12 (36.4%)	2 (6%)		13%
2014	28	17 (58.6%)	8 (27.6%)	3 (10.3%)	53.9%	17%
2015 Provisional	35	27 (77.1%)	17 (48.6%)	6 (17.1%)	59.4%	

Issues impacting on Outcomes

8. Over the last year there has been a concerted effort to focus on increasing the transparency of data and a robust tracking system is now in place.
9. A stronger working relationship between the local authority and the consortium is ensuring that schools receive the appropriate degree of challenge. Challenge advisers have the names of all LAC pupils so that they can challenge individual performance
10. Stronger, effective partnerships with Children's Services have ensured quicker responses to concerns and barriers impeding pupil progress.
11. The progress of and provision for Looked After Children is now discussed in Team Around the School (TAS) meetings and ways forward agreed if revisions need to be made.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications arising from this report

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee

- (1) thank the officer for the detailed report;
- (2) consider the report and any areas that they may wish to consider in greater detail as part of its Work Programme.

Nick Batchelor
Director of Education
11 November 2015
CPAC/ GJ/Edu