



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Time: 4.30 pm

Convenor: Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams

Membership:

Councillors: A M Day, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis and C L Philpott

Agenda

Page No.

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests | |
| 3 | Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips | |
| 4 | Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record. | 1 - 3 |
| 5 | Public Question Time
Questions must be submitted in writing, no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10-minute period. | |
| 6 | Performance Monitoring
<i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> | 4 - 48 |
| 7 | Update on Regional Adoption Service
<i>Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption Service</i> | 49 - 69 |
| 8 | Draft Work Programme 2023-24 | 70 - 72 |

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 at 4.30 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Monday, 12 June 2023

Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Monday, 22 May 2023 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillor P R Hood-Williams (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine

Councillor(s)

E T Kirchner

Councillor(s)

W G Lewis

Other Attendees

Louise Gibbard

Cabinet Member – Care Services

Officer(s)

Julie Davies

Head of Child & Family Services

David Howes

Director of Social Services

Liz Jordan

Scrutiny Officer

Sarah Lackenby

Head of Digital and Customer Services

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day and K M Griffiths

1 Confirmation of Convener

Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams was confirmed as Convener of the Child and Family Services Panel for 2023-24.

2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

No disclosures of interest were received.

3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

No declarations were made.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Panel agreed the minutes of the meeting on 7 March 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting.

5 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

6 Child and Family Complaints Annual Report 2021-22

Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services and Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer Services attended to present the Report for 2021-22 stating the Service takes complaints very seriously and they are used as learning opportunities to inform good practice going forward.

Panel informed the impact of covid was still being felt with issues to do with staff pressures and recruitment, sickness and increasing complexity of cases being dealt with. Despite this there was a reduction in stage one complaints in Child and Family Services and not many progressing to stage two. Also, the Service received 100 compliments. Panel felt this was positive.

7 Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services

Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services attended to brief the Panel on this issue and summarised activity undertaken and progress made.

Discussion Points:

- Panel felt report was comprehensive and complete.
- Panel stated that first people to see the situation of families is health workers, so it is important to keep driving the message home with them that if they see any problems, they should raise them as soon as possible as this is the earliest intervention and then schools have a role to play. Cabinet Member feels have very good relationship with Health and a lot of that work goes on in early help hubs.
- Panel reasonably happy with the way department is going. Panel will be looking at performance reports very carefully and will be awaiting a report from the Corporate Parenting Board this municipal year.

8 Panel Review of the Year 2022-23

Panel Members reviewed the year 2022/23 on the Child and Family Services Panel and the Convener made the following comments:

- October was introductory meeting and looked at role of the Panel. No new members on the Panel last year. Need to have a few more members. Cabinet Member requested to ask members of her party if interested in joining.
- In November looked at Residential Care and will want to come back to that this year.
- December saw first performance monitoring report from new Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) and Panel pleased to see development of this. Also looked at regional safeguarding, Panel had some concerns in terms of regional safeguarding as opposed to what used to have in Swansea.

- In January looked at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Panel was able to see what was going on and progress being made.
- February was a joint meeting with Adult Services Panel to look at the budget. Panel was relatively pleased that the budget had increased. Panel is interested to see how commissioning reviews proceed and need to see timetable for this and have a report on this to the Panel in the near future.
- In March looked at Support for Carers, in conjunction with Adult Services. Also looked at Youth Offending Service which is something Panel will need to continue to look at.
- Work Programme for 2023-24 will be drafted and circulated to Members. Final version to be agreed at next meeting on 20 June 2023.

The meeting ended at 3.20 pm

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 20th June 2023

WELLBEING REPORT

Purpose	To present the Child and Family Services monthly highlight performance report for April 2023
Content	This report includes highlights against Welsh Government, Care Inspectorate Wales and local indicators. The information covers an overview of child and family's contact from the front door (the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Service), the Supported Care Planning and Looked After Children's teams as well as Bays+, and the Youth Justice Service.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the report as part of their routine review of performance in Child and Family Services.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services
Lead Officer(s)	David Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services
Report Author	Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services 01792 633812 Julie.davies10@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer	N/A
Finance Officer	N/A
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

The report is the monthly Child & Family Services April 2023 Wellbeing Report. The purpose is to provide an overview of performance and wellbeing within Child & Family.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

3.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

4. Legal implications

4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 None

***Glossary of terms:** Please add glossary of terms if you are using acronyms*

Background papers: *None*

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Child & Family Services Wellbeing Report, April 2023

Child & Family Services

Monthly Well-being Report

April 2023

Page 6



Contents

Single Point of Contact

Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance
Emergency Duty Team
Domestic Abuse Hub
Early Help Hubs
Family Wellbeing Team
Integrated Safeguarding Hub
CMET
Independent Carers Assessment Team

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Family & Friends
Foster Wales Swansea
Western Bay Adoption

Support Services

Family Support Service

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Head of Service Overview

April has felt like a very busy month, probably due to a number of factors - we have continued to carry a high number of social worker vacancies in the area social work teams, the length of time it can take for an external candidate to start in post, and pockets of short term sickness across the service.

The Early Help Hubs have seen a reduction in the amount of contacts in April, however the service has insufficient capacity to meet demand with 157 awaiting allocation – albeit this has reduced from March. The overall caseload for the Early Help Hubs in April stood at 1225.

Management of demand and slowing down of cases by the Academy will be affected, to varying degrees, from April through to September, when the new and increased cohort of NQSWs start in post. The main reasons are the team supporting ISH due to staff move on and sickness, NQSWs from the Academy moving across to the area social work teams in May/June and student placements ending.

The presenting needs of some carers who are requesting assessments are linked to children not being in education or being on a reduced timetable. A workshop is planned between CFS and education to explore creative solutions to ensure children are receiving their statutory entitlement and to support them in re-engaging with learning.

Open cases in supported care planning total 1208 in April, and of these 208 are on the child protection register and 476 children are looked after. There was a dip in the percentage of visits to children on the child protection register that were on time or not overdue. Feedback in the monthly manager meetings confirms that children are being seen but there is an issue with the recording of visits on WCCIS (inputting of data or delays in recording on WCCIS).

There are 34 children in residential homes (including 4 in-house) and one child is in Hillside Secure Centre. There continues to be a child living in a placement that is operating without registration. We hope to achieve registration with CIW by 1 June when the Registered Manager is in post.

There has been a good level of interest from kinship carers wanting to progress onto SGO applications from the workshops held in April. Very positively, Foster Wales Swansea receiving a higher number of registrations of interest to foster in April, compared to March. It remains a priority to increase the number of in-house fostering households; as can be seen, in April only 30% of the fostering requests were able to be placed with Foster Wales Swansea carers.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

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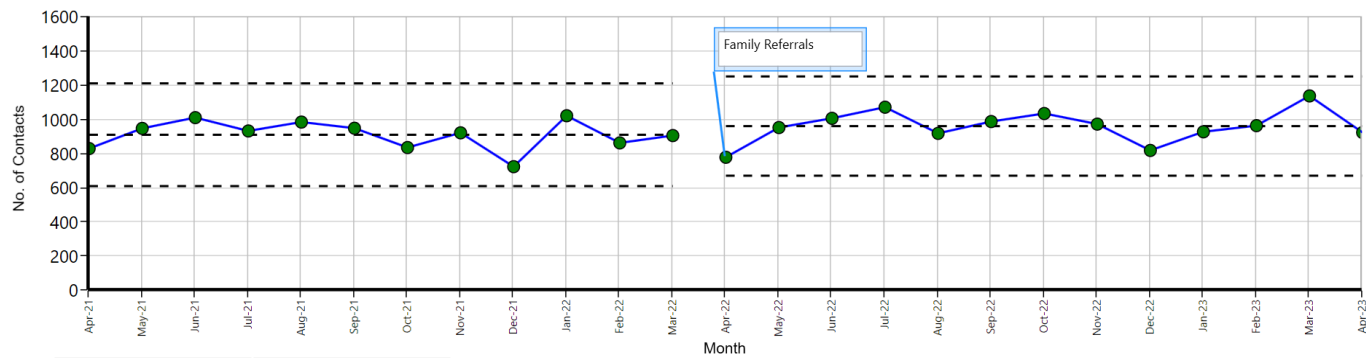
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Single Point of Contact

Contacts	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of contacts received by Child & Family Services during the month:	1140	926
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	610	564
The number of contacts closed with Advice or Assistance during the month:	101	58

Contacts Received by SPOC



	Apr-21	Apr-22
UCL	1213.57	1254.07
Mean	912.75	963.46
LCL	611.93	672.86

Page 8



Single Point of Contact

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Staff Wellbeing

Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub

Contacts & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts received by the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Hub during the month:	595	414
The number of contacts received during the month where Advice or Assistance has been provided within 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	325	241
The number of contacts closed with Advice or Assistance during the month:	68	39
The number of contacts closed with another reason during the month:	0	1
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	39	10
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: <small>(includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)</small>	12	3
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	39	31
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: <small>(includes the Academy)</small>	35	31
The number of contacts passed to the Family & Friends Team:	2	0
The number of contacts passed to the Independent Carers Assessment Team:	3	1
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Hub at the end of the month:	72	57



Single Point of Contact

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Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

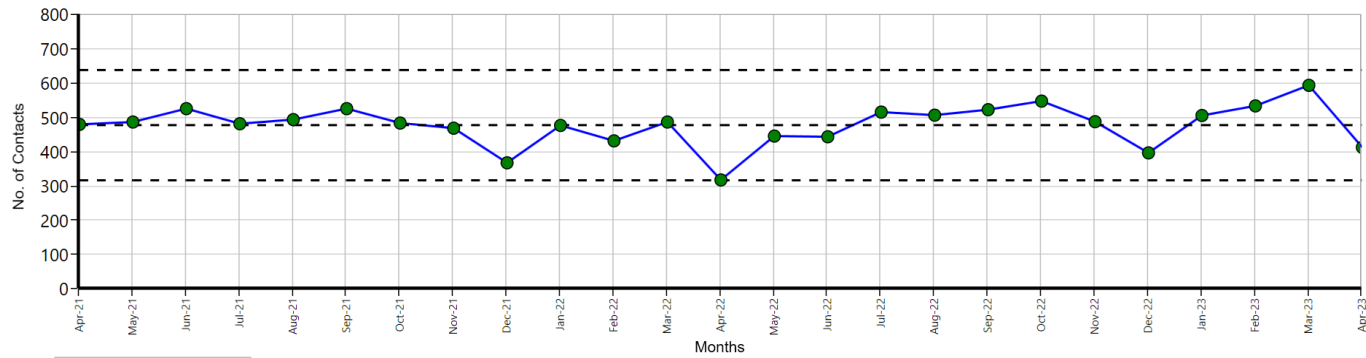
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Staff Wellbeing

Contacts Received by IAA



Apr-21
UCL 639.66
Mean 478.84
LCL 318.02

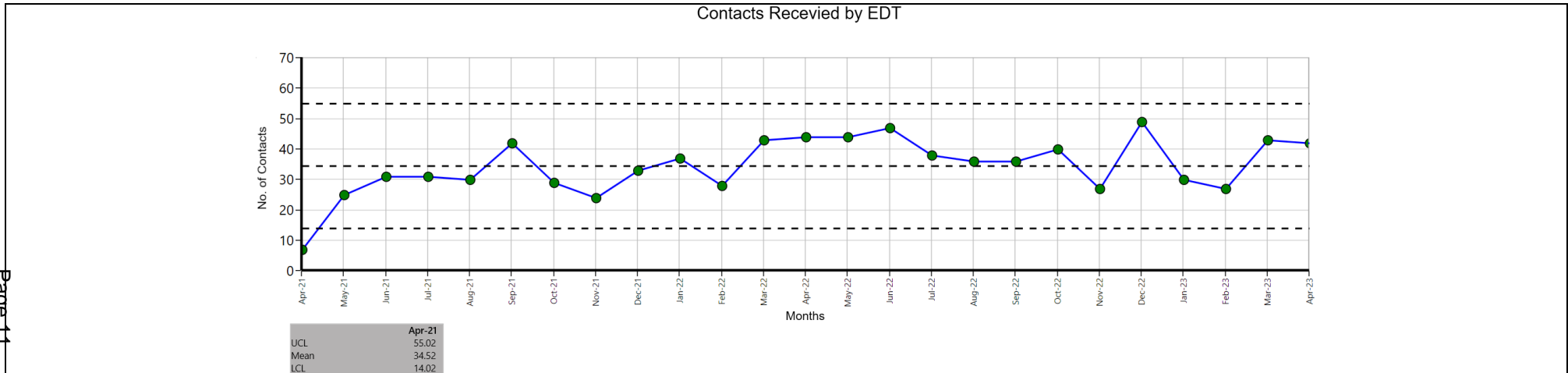
Page 10

Emergency Duty Team

Contacts & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts received by the Emergency Duty Team during the month:	43	42
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	10	11
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	0	2
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	2	3
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub:	19	16
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: (includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)	2	0
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	7	8
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: (includes the Academy)	1	1



The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Emergency Duty Team at the end of the month:	2	1
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Page 11

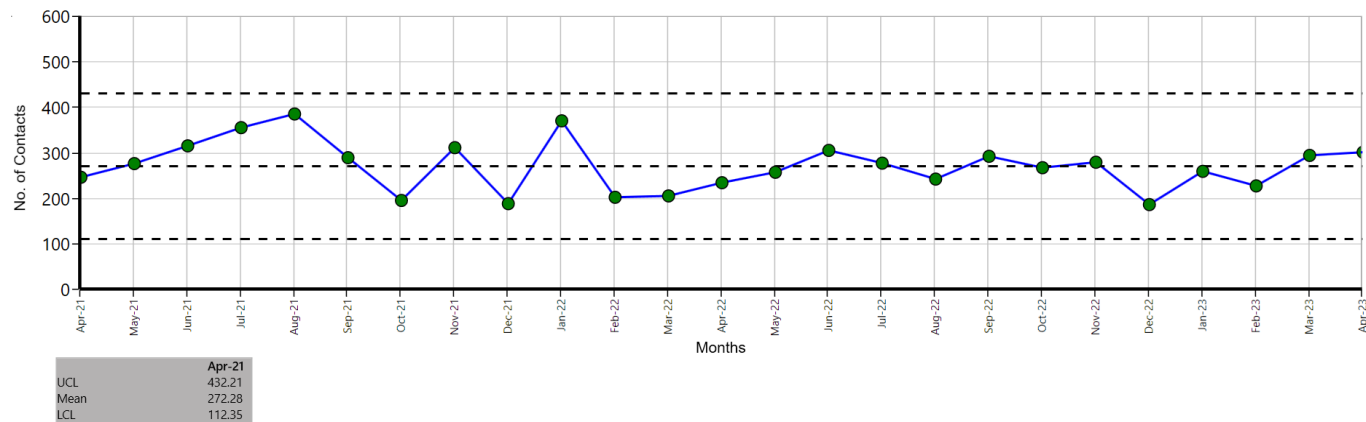
Child Protection Investigations	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	3	2
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	1	1
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:	2	0
The total number of Section 47 enquires recorded during the month:	0	2
The number of Section 47 enquires which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:		0
The number of Section 47 enquires where there is no further CP action required:		2



Domestic Abuse Hub

Contacts & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts received by the Domestic Abuse Hub during the month:	296	303
The number of contacts received during the month where Advice or Assistance has been provided within 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	233	269
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	29	16
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	3	4
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub or the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	3	3
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: (includes the Academy)	4	0
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Domestic Abuse Hub at the end of the month:	24	11

Contacts Received by DA Hub

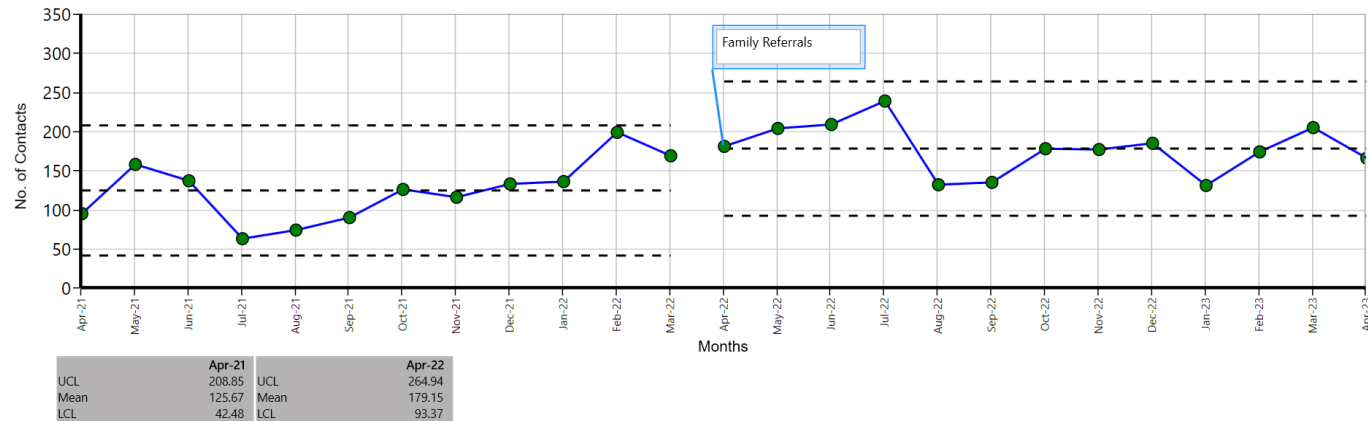




Early Help Hubs

Contacts & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts for the Early Help Hubs received during the month:	206	167
The number of contacts closed Information, Advice or Assistance during the month:	46	44
The number of contacts agreed for Early Helps Hubs support during the month:	143	99
The number of contacts awaiting allocation at the end of the month:	175	157
The number of contacts received during the month where Advice or Assistance has been provided within 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals received during the month where support ceased in the last 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals closed during the month:	220	169
The number of referrals closed with a positive outcome during the month:	131	91

Contacts Received by Early Help Hubs





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

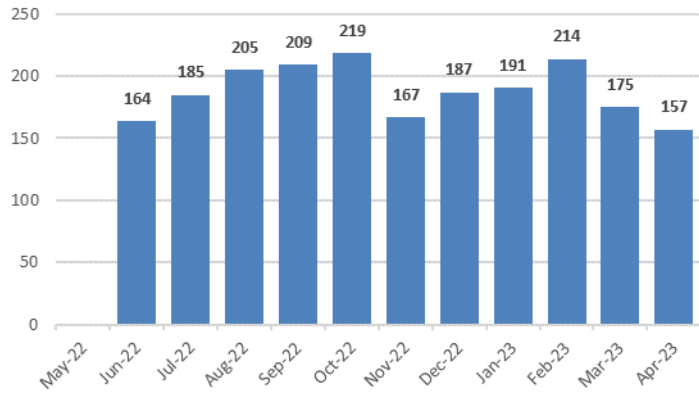
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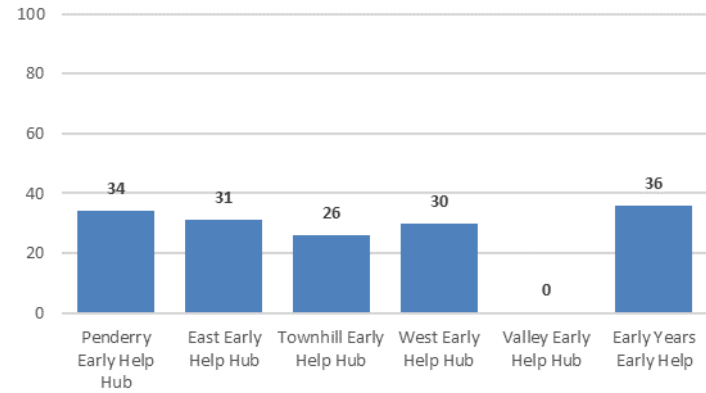
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Cases awaiting allocation - Early Help - Monthly Snapshot



Cases awaiting allocation - Early Help - April 2023

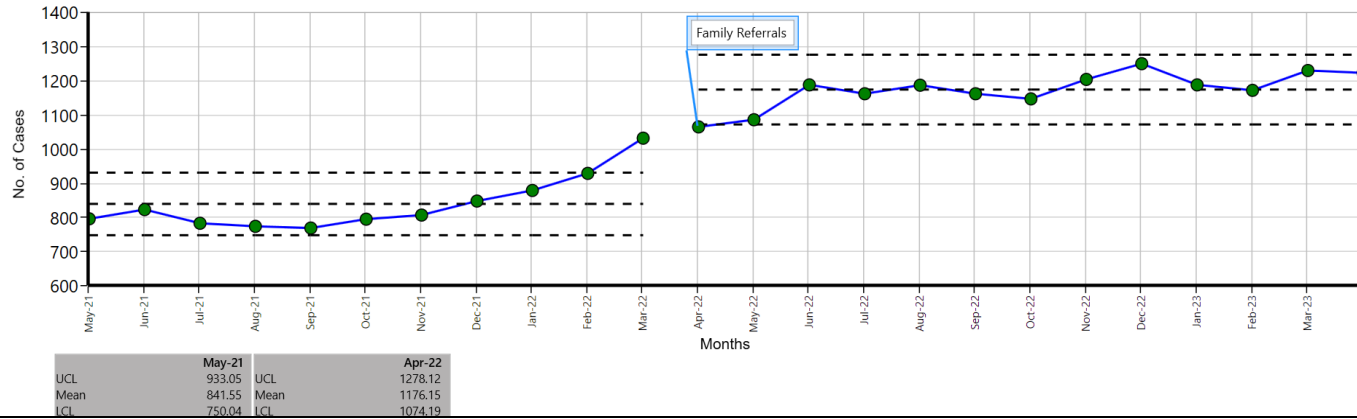


Page 14

Caseload	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children and young people supported at the end of the month:	1232	1225
The number of children and young people with a Family Plan / Review at the end of the month:	Report To Be Developed	



Caseload Trend - Early Help Hubs



Page 15

Wellbeing Assessments	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Wellbeing Assessments due during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of Wellbeing Assessments completed during the month:	51	32

Family Plans	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Family Plan / Review's completed during the month:	203	153

Family Wellbeing Team

Contacts, Caseloads & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of referrals agreed for Family Wellbeing Support during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals closed to the Family Wellbeing Team during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of children and young people supported by the Family Wellbeing Team at the end of the month:	Report To Be Developed	



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

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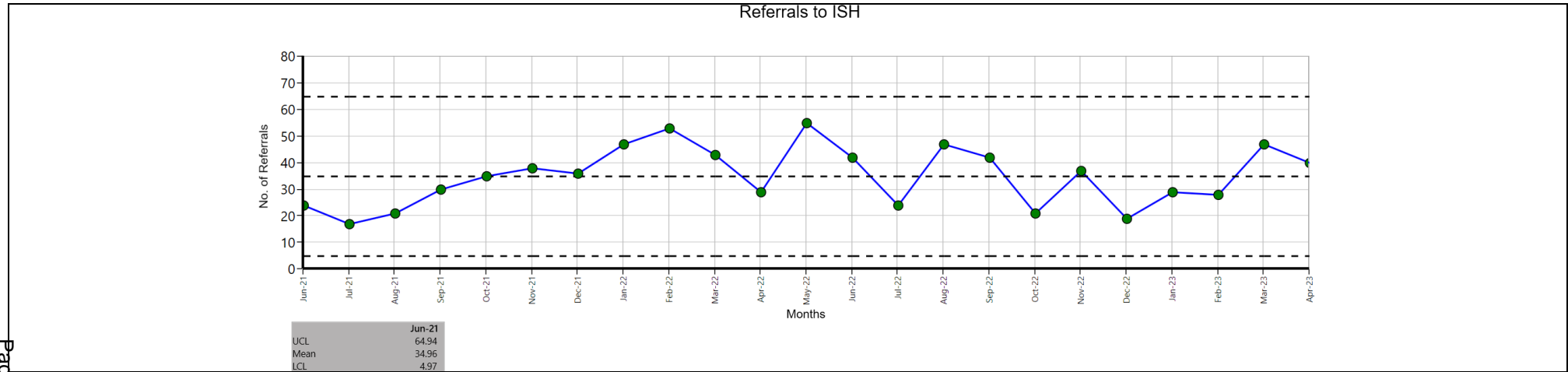
Professional Abuse Enquires

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Staff Wellbeing

Integrated Safeguarding Hub

Contacts & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts that were passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	47	40
The number of contacts received during the month where Advice or Assistance has been provided within 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	0	0
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	4	5
The number of contacts closed with another reason during the month:	9	0
The number of contacts passed to a preventative service during the month:	0	0
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: <small>(includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)</small>	0	0
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning for a comprehensive assessment during the month: <small>(includes the Academy)</small>	7	8
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Integrated Safeguarding Hub at the end of the month:	27	27



Page 17

Child Protection Investigations	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	41	45*
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	26	16*
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:	6	18*
The total number of Section 47 enquires recorded during the month:	24	9*
The number of Section 47 enquires which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:	8	0*
The number of Section 47 enquires where there is no further CP action required:	15	6*

* figures do not include the new form which was rolled in on 2 May – there are 4 children with a new CP activity form during April which are not reflected in the figures.



Single Point of Contact

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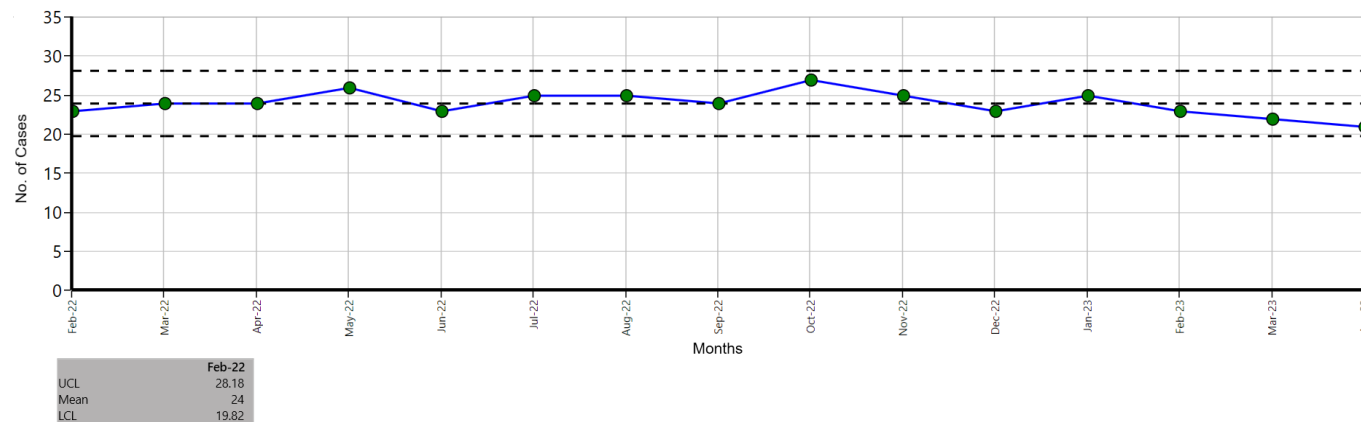
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

CMET

Contacts, Caseload & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were passed to CMET during the month:	4	1
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were closed by CMET during the month:	5	2
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were closed by CMET during the month with a positive outcome:	5	2
The number of contextual areas and peer groups supported by CMET at the end of the month:	22	21

CMET Caseload - Contextual Areas and Peer Groups



Page 18

Independent Carers Assessment Team

	March 2023	April 2023
The number of referrals received by the Independent Carers Assessment Team during the month:	5	1
The number of referrals for parent carers awaiting allocation at the end of the month:	5	1



	March 2023	April 2023
The number of parent carers supported by the Independent Carers Assessment Team at the end of the month:	43	37
The number of Independent Carers Assessments due during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of Independent Carers Assessments completed during the month:	2	1
The number of referrals closed by the Independent Carers Assessment Team during the month:	9	6

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>This month we received fewer contacts into the service. This is mostly due to March being unusually high.</p> <p>A high proportion of the contacts to IAA were deemed information only with a slight reduction in those supporting with information advice and assistance.</p> <p>Positively fewer contacts passed from IAA for further support with a reduction of 74.36% passed onto preventative services. Contacts passed to, CMET (3), prevention (10), the Integrated Safeguarding Hub (31) and Supported Care Planning (31 – the Academy 14, Penderry & East 11, Townhill & West 3, Valley 2 and Bays Plus 2).</p> <p>In considering the referrals from February and March, almost a quarter of the referrals passed</p>	<p>Despite a reduction in the number of contacts in some areas of SPOC (Single Point of Contact), the number recorded by EDT (42) and the Domestic Abuse Hub (303) are comparable with March – similar trends observed during the same period in 2022.</p> <p>Although the Early Help Hubs have seen a reduction in the amount of contacts, the demand into the service continues to surpass its capacity as we continue to have a waiting list of 157 awaiting allocation.</p> <p>During the monthly meetings with the Academy, it was highlighted that as they have reduced capacity at present due to maternity leave and promotion of one senior to PL, and the seniors within the Academy supporting with the demand into ISH. Capacity in the Academy will be lower until September 2023 (when the new NQSW</p>	<p>Further exploration of links between IAA referrals passed onto ISH where EHH have supported in the past 12 months</p> <p>Monitor the demand into ISH and the Academy and consider how the service could support if pressures exceed capacity</p> <p>Continue development work with WCCIS to support reporting and in turn practice.</p> <p>Continue implementing QA framework in EHH</p>

Page 19



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Page 20

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>from IAA to ISH had previously received EHH support in the past 12 months, however on one, case was awaiting allocation therefore there is no indication that those families awaiting a service from EHH are escalating into crisis and requiring a statutory service. We will continue to explore the themes in the link between those entering ISH/SCP and EHH in the next few months.</p> <p>Like IAA, the Early Help Hubs also received fewer contacts this month.</p> <p>The Early Help Hubs continue to agree to support a significant proportion (99, 59.28%) of their monthly contacts – however, the number of closures (169) has surpassed the number agreed to support for a second month running.</p> <p>On the whole, the EHH remain relatively stable with their overall caseload (1225) fluctuating between 1170 and 1232 since January 2023.</p> <p>Of the 40 contacts received, the Integrated Safeguarding Hub supported 5 with Advice or Assistance, passed on 8 on to Supported Care Planning for further support (all of which went to the Academy) – the Integrated Safeguarding Hub</p>	<p>cohort starts) to the workload from ISH being shared, students leaving and 2 NQSWs transitioning over to SCP teams.</p> <p>The ISH figures are not accurate in this month’s reports because we had to allocate cases to staff outside of the ISH due to staffing issues. The report only picks up cases allocated within the ISH, should we be in the position again of having to allocate to other staff, TCOs will keep a manual record.</p> <p>There continues to be a waiting list for carers assessments as the demand exceeds the capacity currently. However progress is being made in relation to assessing and closures of these cases.</p>	



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Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>continued to support 27 children/young people at the end of the month.</p> <p>CMET received 1 new referral for contextual areas and peer groups and closed 2 cases – all of which achieved a positive outcome.</p> <p>The Academy continue to work alongside WCCIS to consider how best to review Direct Payment cases so that they do not sit on caseloads.</p> <p>Within the Carers Team, 1 referral was received and 6 closed during April seeing a reduction to 37 parent carers being supported at the end of the month.</p>		



Single Point of Contact

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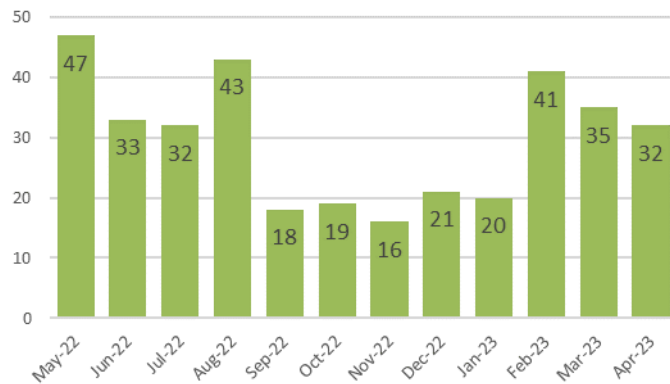
Staff Wellbeing

Supported Care Planning

Contacts, Caseload & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The number of referrals received for a comprehensive assessment during the month: (referrals passed from the Integrated IAA Hub, and includes the Academy)	35	32
The number of referrals received during the month where support ceased in the last 12 months:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals closed in Supported Care Planning during the month:	53	52
The number of referrals closed with a positive outcome during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals passed to Family & Friends during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of referrals stepped down to preventative services during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of children and young people supported by Supported Care Planning at the end of the month: (Includes the Academy)	1204	1208
Of these, the percentage that represent complex cases (CP & LAC):	54.40%	55.22%

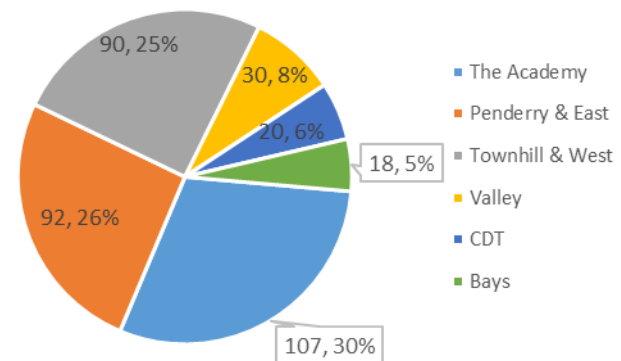
Page 22

Referrals passed from IAA to SCP



Referrals passed from IAA to SCP

May 2022 to April 2023





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

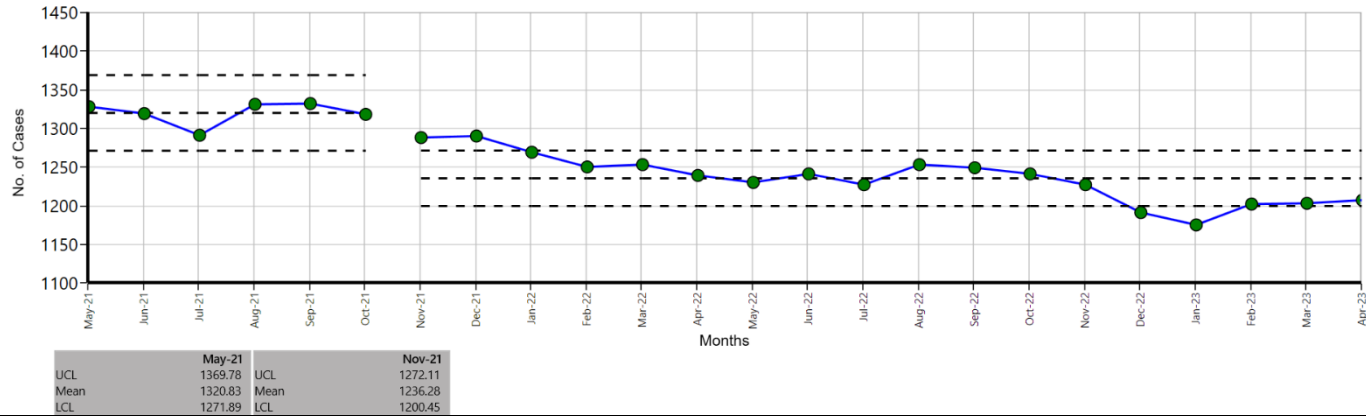
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Caseload Trend - Supported Care Planning



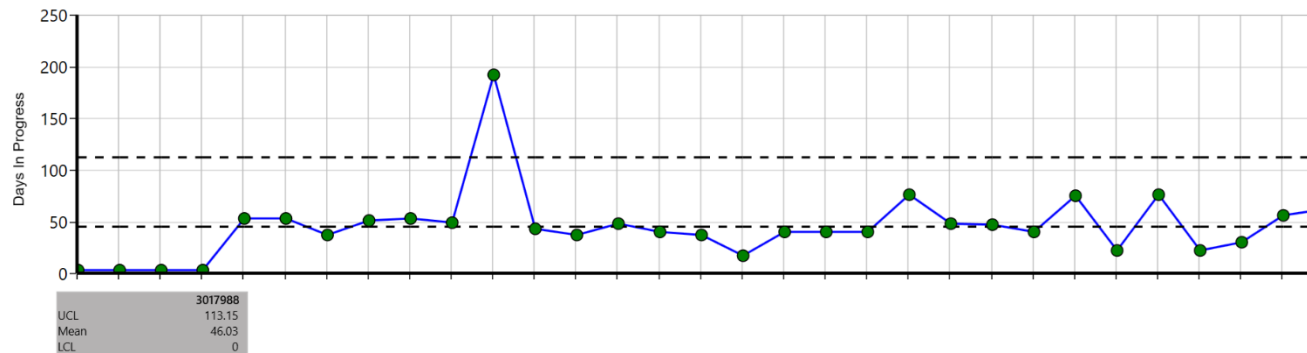
Page 23

Case Supervision	March 2023	April 2023
The percentage of Case Supervision sessions which are on time or not overdue at the end of the month: (*Figure excludes the Academy, who are tracking case supervision whilst trialling recording methods)	85.31%*	73.44%
Care & Support Plans	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children and young people with a Care and Support Plan at the end of the month:	971	961
Single Assessments	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Single Assessments due at the end of the month: (*Figure includes the Academy hubs)	159*	171*
The number of Single Assessments that are overdue at the end of the month:	30	59
The number of Single Assessments completed during the month:	70	31
The number of Single Assessments carried out within timescales during the month:	40, 57.14%	16, 51.61%
The percentage of children seen during the period of assessment, who were born at the time the assessment concluded:	71.43%	96.43%
The average number of days to complete a Single Assessment during the month:	37 Days	46 Days



Single Assessments	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Single Assessments which indicate direct work has been undertaken (Children aged 5 and over):	45, 84.91%	

Days to Completion - Quarter 1



Page 24

Child Protection Investigations	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	40	35*
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	18	17*
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings no further CP action is required:	7	4*
The total number of Section 47's recorded during the month:	9	16*
The number of Section 47 enquires which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:	3	10*
The number of Section 47 enquires where no further CP action is required:	5	4*

* figures do not include the new form which was rolled in on 2 May – there are 4 children with a new CP activity form during April which are not reflected in the figures.



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Professional Abuse Enquires

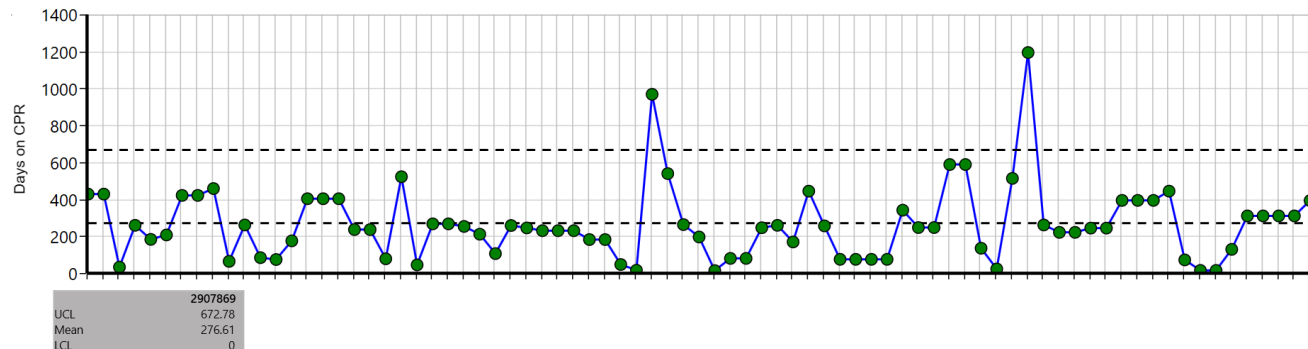
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children on the Child Protection Register at the end of the month:	203	208
The number of unborns to be added to the Child Protection Register at birth at the end of the month:	8	10
The number of children on the Child Protection Register that have been registered previously:	66	64
The number of children added to the Child Protection Register during the month:	19	12
The number of children added to the Child Protection Register, within 12 months of de-registration:	4	1
The number of children added to the Child Protection Register, within 12 months of de-registrations who've been re-registered under the same category:	Report To Be Developed	
The number of children removed from the Child Protection Register during the month:	33	7
The number of children removed from the Child Protection Register at their first review, who were not Looked After:	5	0

Page 25

Days to De-Registration 2023





Qualitative Auditing – Multi Agency Safeguarding Reviews

De-Registration at First Review

During March, four children (two sibling groups)’s names were removed from the Child Protection Register at their first Review Child Protection Conference. One child had moved in with appropriate alternative family members; however this placement broke down and the child became looked after by the Authority. Professionals considered this to be a ‘safe’ de-registration as the child is now in the care of the Authority.

The group of four siblings whose names were also removed from the CP Register at their first Review were discussed within a safeguarding review meeting to consider decision making and views of the children and professionals throughout the conference process. Overall, professionals did not agree with the decision to deregister at first review but were not so concerned about any of the children that the review thought emergency actions should be taken.

Professionals were concerned that historical concerns were presenting again although the reason to proceed to conference was a separate incident. Professionals also sought clarity around children’s education attendance, home conditions, parental mental health, and worries around finances. The review has invited the case network to discuss this in more detail to satisfy any anxiety around whether a safety plan could be managed within a Care and Support Plan on CINCS basis, which the Learning and Innovation Team will facilitate.

Exploitation Case Reviews

During April, the multi-agency safeguarding review evaluated three protocol cases. In the cases reviewed, professionals felt more detail was required to ensure the strengths, safety, worries and risks were clearly recorded for all three cases. Professionals did not feel the young person’s views were represented in any of the cases reviewed.

A safety plan was reviewed for each case and professionals felt the underlying worries around exploitation were addressed in all three cases, however the young person’s voice was not clear within the plans. The young person’s voice was reflected in one safety plan, but professionals felt more detail was needed. Professionals agreed with the decision making, including the protocol category for two cases. All cases clearly explored the perpetrators of exploitation, peer groups and contextual areas.

Positively, all three cases were considered to be good case examples with regard to engaging with the young person in question, joined up flexible working between Bays, YOS and CMET to tackle engagement barriers and consideration of a young person’s wider support network.

Page 20

Initial Core Groups	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Initial Core Groups due during the month:	15	13
The number of Initial Core Groups held within timescales:	9	13



Statutory Visits	March 2023	April 2023
The percentage of visits to children on the Child Protection Register that were on time or not over due at the end of the month:	82.16%	73.39%
The number of children on the Child Protection Register who have been visited at least twice during the month:	Report To Be Developed	
Dual Status	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children who are on the Child Protection Register and are Looked After:	27	24
Legal Proceedings	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children in PLO at the end of the month:	39	42
<i>During April, Public Law concluded for 3 children; the Local Authority issued care proceedings for 2 and concluded pre-legal proceedings for 1.</i>		
The number of children in Public Proceedings at the end of the month:	46	44
<i>During April, Public Proceedings concluded for 6 children; the Local Authority was granted Care Orders for 5 and a family member was granted a Special Guardianship Order for 1.</i>		
Looked After Children	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children who were Looked After at the end of the month:	481	476
The number of children placed in an unregulated placement at the end of the month: <i>*Figure reported by PO in the absence of a report from WCCIS</i>	1*	1*
The number of children becoming Looked After during the month:	10	6
The number of Looked After children, with an unaccompanied asylum status supported at the end of the month:	4	6
The number of children ceasing to be Looked After during the month:	15	11

Page 22



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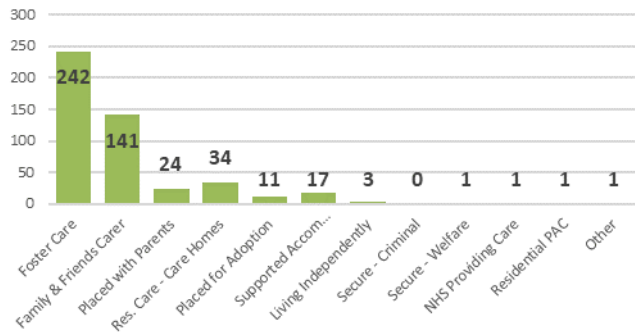
SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

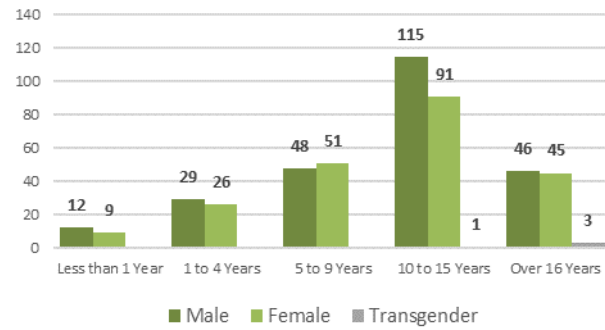
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

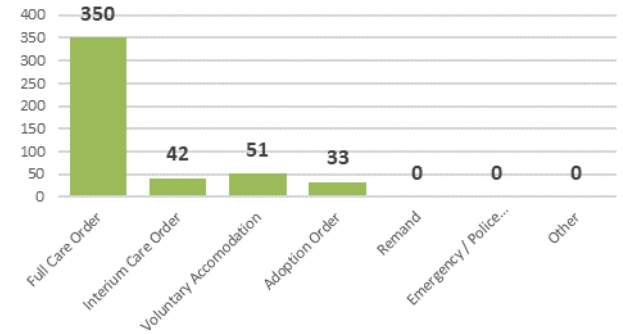
Looked After Children - Placement Type



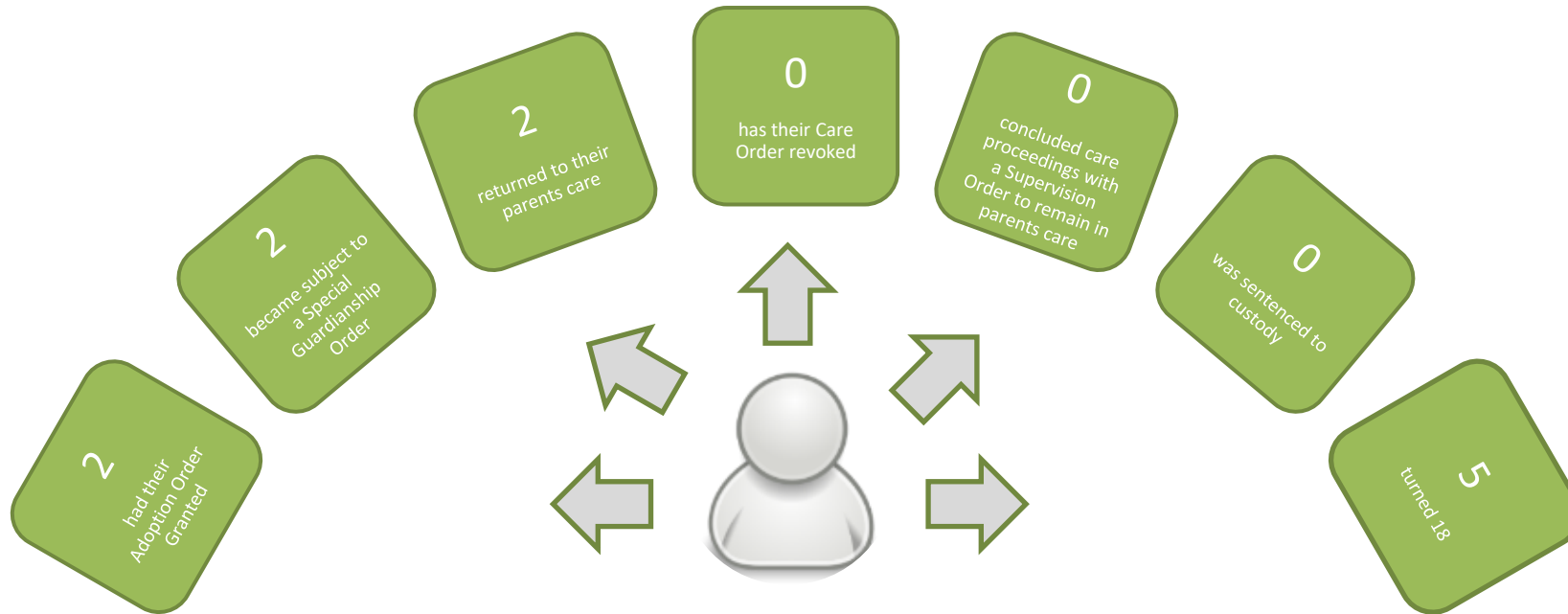
Looked After Children - Age and Gender



Looked After Children - Legal Status



Page 28





Initial Personal Education Plan	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Initial PEP's due within 20 school days of becoming Looked After during the month:	4	1
The number of Initial PEP's received within 20 school days of becoming Looked After:	3	1

Bays Plus

	March 2023	April 2023
The number of young people presenting as homeless, placed in a bed & breakfast, during the month (under 18's only): (includes Air B&B and Hotels)	1	1
The total number of young people residing in a bed & breakfast at any time during the month (under 18's only):	1	1
The number of young people presenting as homeless, placed in emergency accommodation, during the month (under 18's only): (includes Jennings, Emergency SLS, SPOT Purchasing Provisions)	4	2
The total number of young people residing in emergency accommodation at any time during the month (under 18's only):	5	4

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>We continue to see SCP close more cases (52) than are coming over for assessment (32). The true figure for this data however may be higher as we are currently unable to reflect the number of cases transferred from and to other service areas.</p> <p>We continue to see a high number of children and young people with an active Care and Support Plan (961).</p>	<p>There has been a slight reduction in the proportion of case supervisions being on time or not overdue (73.44%) - this may be linked to the roll-in of a recording method. During the monthly meetings Team managers feel they are aware of all the cases and the majority of their Social Workers are prioritising supervision with the delays coming from the supervisions being recorded on WCCIS itself.</p>	<p>Explore the cases who have been registered for over 12 months to give context as to why they remain on the register.</p> <p>Due to the new way of working within PLO and Court, it is envisaged the amount of time a child is on the child protection register for will increase – we will need to be mindful of this as we move forward when considering our child protection stats.</p>



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Page 30

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>A high proportion of children were seen during their assessment (96.43%) – whilst completing annual returns an issue was uncovered in the reporting and therefore it is likely performance in this area is higher in previous months than the figures have been recorded.</p> <p>Level of child protection enquiries remains stable although a high proportion have proceeded through the CP process.</p> <p>48.57% (17) of Strategy Discussions required a Section 47 and 62.5% (10) of which proceeded to an ICPC. [Figures do not include the new forms rolled out from 2 May – there are 4 children with a new CP activity form during April which are not reflected in the figures].</p> <p>Slight increase in child protection numbers (+5) bringing the total on the register to 203. Of those on the register 7 were de-registered during the month.</p> <p>100% of core groups were completed on time.</p> <p>Further reduction in the LAC population (476).</p>	<p>In April fewer Single Assessments were concluded (31) – with 16 (51.61%) of these being completed within statutory timescales. The reduction in meeting statutory timescales began in March, despite seeing monthly improvements previously – we need to consider the themes as to what is impacting on this in the last two months as we move forward.</p> <p>Reporting of the CP activity will be impacted by the rolling out of the new forms as there is not a report to capture this data yet. The report is priority to develop now that the WG returns will be completed at the end of May.</p> <p>1 child has been re-registered within 12 months of de-registration. This case will be considered within the Safeguarding Weekly meeting in June.</p> <p>We saw a reduction in the timeliness of child protection statutory visits this month. Feedback in the monthly manager meeting is that the children are being seen but the recording of visits is either delayed by the worker putting it onto WCCIS, or issues with the weekly activity form where the statutory visits are being recorded but not being picked up by the report due to Social Workers not inputting the data correctly. This will</p>	<p>Continue to review the new forms and how they are working in practice.</p>



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Support Services

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Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>11 children ceased being looked after with a high proportion achieving a positive outcome (2 returned to parents care, 2 adoption orders and 2 SGO's granted.)</p>	<p>be an adjustment period as the forms roll out and become the new norm.</p>	



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Staff Wellbeing

Fostering & Adoption

Family & Friends

Family & Friends Carers	March 2023	April 2023
The number of referrals requesting Initial Family & Friends Carers assessments (IFFCA's) received during the month:	6	TBC
The number of IFFCA's ongoing as at the end of the month:	3	TBC
The number of Unified Assessments (UA's) ongoing as at the end of the month:	18	TBC
The number of Carers approved at panel during the month:	2	TBC
The number of approved carer status' terminated at panel during the month:	2	TBC
The number of approved carer households at the end of the month:	126	TBC
The number of Carer Review's due during the month:	Report to be developed	
The number of Carer Review's completed within timescales during the month:	Report to be developed	

Family & Friends Placements	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of children placed with a Family & Friends carer at the end of the month:	163	TBC
The number of children placed with unapproved Family & Friends carers at the end of the month:	10	11
The number of Placement Stability Meetings completed during the month:	3	TBC
The number of children who moved to a Family & Friends Carer during the month, due to placement breakdown:	0	TBC
The number of children who moved to a foster carer from a Family & Friends placement during the month:	0	TBC



Children Subject to Special Guardianship & Child Arrangement Orders	March 2023	April 2023
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, accepted by Family & Friends during the month:	11	3
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, whose care circumstances changed during the month:	1	1
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, supported by Family & Friends, at the end of the month:	341	343
The number of SGO Reviews due during the month:	25	18
The number of SGO Reviews completed during the month:	20	11
The number of Family Stability Meetings held and Stability Plans produced during the month:	4	0

Figures reported by Family & Friends in the absence of reporting from WCCIS

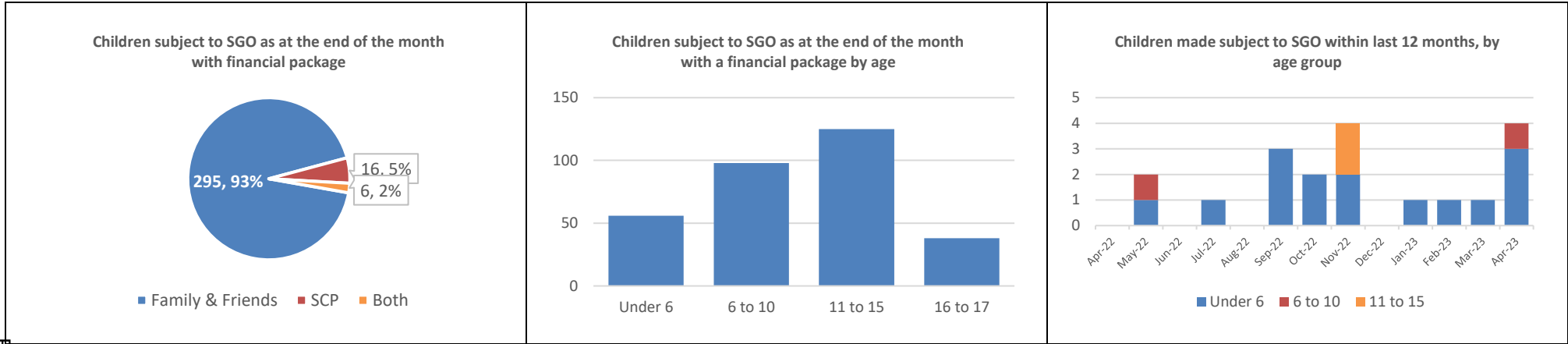
Page 33

Overview of SGO Endings

During April there was 1 change to care circumstances for children subject to Special Guardianship and this was as a consequence of the Guardian unexpectedly passing away and SGO ending; the young person is being cared for by other members of the family.

There have been no SGO family disruptions threatened, no SGO breakdowns and no SGO stability meetings convened.

**There continues to be data cleaning with regard to SGO so figures are subject to change until such a time as a system-based SGO Database is established.*



Page 34

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGO carers have received a significant increase in financial allowances In April and SGO finance Policy is nearing completion SCVS have secured a Welsh office bid to provide volunteer support services to SGO families .FAFT have been working with SCVS to help develop this service alongside existing support as detailed within SGO support plans FAFT have held 5 prospective SGO workshops all of which have had excellent feedback with carers wanting to progress onto SGO applications 		



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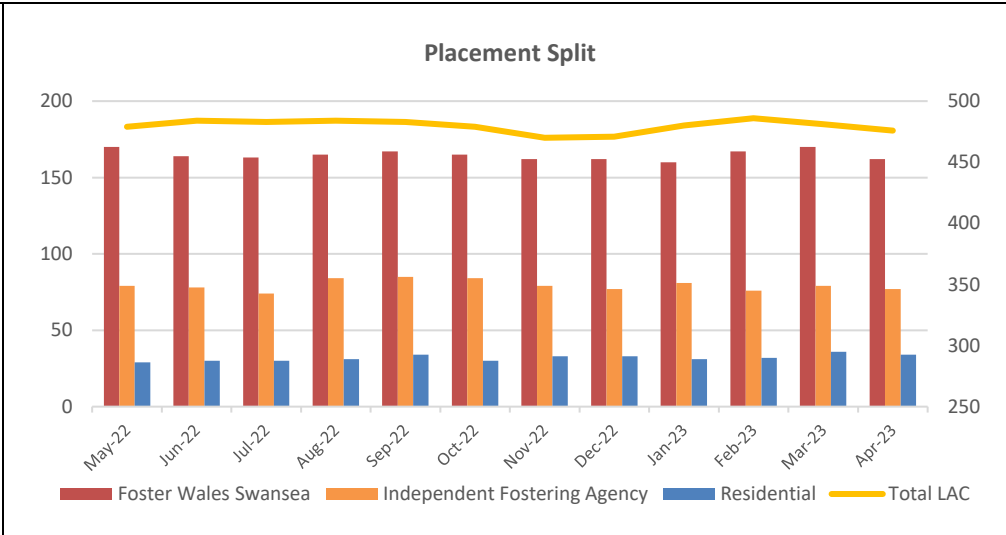
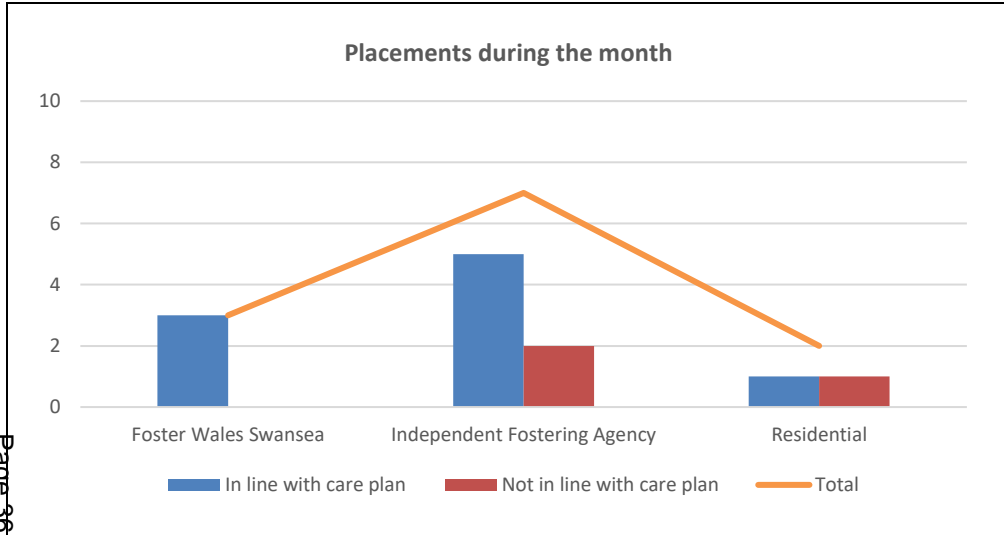
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Foster Wales Swansea

Recruitment	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Registrations of Interest to foster received during the month:	11	16
The number of full assessments allocated during the month:	0	5
The number of carers approved at panel during the month:	2	0
The number of approved carer status' terminated at panel during the month:	0	0
The number of carer reviews during the month:	8	9
The number of carer reviews completed within timescales during the month:	4	7
Placements	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of children placed with a Foster Wales Swansea carer at the end of the month:	168	160
The number of Placement Stability Meetings completed during the month:	2	5
The number of children who changed placement during the month, due to placement breakdown:	0	1
The number of children moving from a Foster Wales Swansea carer to a Residential placement during the month:	1	0
The number of children moving from a Residential placement to a Foster Wales Swansea carer during the month:	1	0

Page 30



Page 30

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>80% of all fostering placements (FSW and IFA) were in-line with the child’s care plan.</p> <p>There was only one placement breakdown in April. Out of the five Placement Stability Meetings that took place, three resulted in stability.</p> <p>Fostering enquiries increased this month to 16, an increase of 5 from the previous month.</p> <p>April prep training resulted in 5 fostering assessments being allocated to Supervising Social Workers.</p>	<p>Only 30% of the fostering requests were placed in-house due to a lack of matched vacancies.</p> <p>The number of available in-house vacancies continues to be low.</p> <p>The number of available IFA fostering placements continues to be low too.</p>	<p>To continue monitoring and reviewing the unavailable vacancies.</p> <p>To continue to research and explore ideas to improve the ‘package’ for both new and existing carers. It needs to be more attractive to recruit and retain.</p> <p>To continue monitoring the recruitment process to ensure that applicants are moving through it in a timely manner and where relevant, IFA carers are fast tracked.</p> <p>To continue to promote fostering in line with the recruitment and retention strategy and working</p>



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Fostering & Adoption

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Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>The number of carer reviews that were completed within timescales has significantly improved. It went from 50% being completed to 78%.</p>		<p>with Foster Wales nationally to recruit more foster carers and improve the 'offer'.</p> <p>To continue to improve the retention offer for existing foster carers in line with the recruitment and retention strategy and working with Foster Wales nationally to retain more foster carers and improve the 'offer' i.e. council tax, free car parking, wellbeing offer, expansion of support groups, foster carer charter, foster carer association etc.</p> <p>Once the foster carer consultation event has taken place, an action plan (which takes into consideration their views/ideas/needs) will be implemented.</p>



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Staff Wellbeing

Western Bay Adoption Service

Recruitment	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Registrations of Interest to adopt received during the month:	1	4
The number of full assessments allocated during the month:	1	0
The number of adopters approved at panel during the month:	4	1
The number of approved adopters who have withdrawn from Western Bay Adoption Service during the month:	0	0
The number of adopter reviews due during the month:	2	1
The number of adopter reviews completed within timescales during the month:	2	0
Western Bay Adoption Placements	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Swansea children with a positive Should Be Placed outcome by the Agency Decision Maker during the month	3	2
The number of Swansea children made subject of a Placement Order during the month:	2	3
The number of Swansea Looked After Children placed with Western Bay Adopters during the month:	1	2
The total number of Swansea Looked After Children placed with Western Bay Adopters at the end of the month:	11	12
The total number of Swansea Looked After Children matched with adopters during the month:	3	2
The number of Swansea Looked After Children waiting to be matched with adopters:	13 (3 booked into matching panel, 1 with a strong link identified and 9 with no link identified)	16 (5 children have a strong link identified, 8 have no link identified and 3 have plans being reconsidered)
The number of Swansea Looked After Children who have been matched with adopters but not yet placed for adoption:	2	3
The number of Swansea Looked After Children whose plan for adoption has changed:	0	0
The number of Swansea Looked After Children placed, whose placement was disrupted:	0	2



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Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

<p>Swansea LAC waiting to be matched with Adopters</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Swansea LAC waiting to be matched with Adopters</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Waiting to be matched</th> <th>Booked into matching panel</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jun-22</td><td>9</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul-22</td><td>14</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug-22</td><td>13</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep-22</td><td>17</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct-22</td><td>11</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov-22</td><td>14</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec-22</td><td>20</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan-23</td><td>17</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb-23</td><td>15</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar-23</td><td>13</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr-23</td><td>16</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Waiting to be matched	Booked into matching panel	Jun-22	9	1	Jul-22	14	9	Aug-22	13	9	Sep-22	17	9	Oct-22	11	5	Nov-22	14	5	Dec-22	20	5	Jan-23	17	4	Feb-23	15	5	Mar-23	13	3	Apr-23	16	0	<p>Placement Orders Granted per Quarter 01/10/2020-30/09/2022</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Placement Orders Granted per Quarter 01/10/2020-30/09/2022</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>Region</th> <th>Swansea</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021-22</td><td>13</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021-22</td><td>10</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021-22</td><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021-22</td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022-23</td><td>7</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022-23</td><td>16</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022-23</td><td>17</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022-23</td><td>12</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	Region	Swansea	Q1 2021-22	13	2	Q2 2021-22	10	6	Q3 2021-22	5	2	Q4 2021-22	7	4	Q1 2022-23	7	4	Q2 2022-23	16	11	Q3 2022-23	17	11	Q4 2022-23	12	2	<p>Swansea Children made subject to an Adoption Order vs. Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Swansea Children made subject to an Adoption Order vs. Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>AOG</th> <th>SGO/CAO/RO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q1 2021-22</td><td>15</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2021-22</td><td>14</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2021-22</td><td>10</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2021-22</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2022-23</td><td>8</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>Q2 2022-23</td><td>3</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022-23</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022-23</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	AOG	SGO/CAO/RO	Q1 2021-22	15	38	Q2 2021-22	14	25	Q3 2021-22	10	30	Q4 2021-22	5	5	Q1 2022-23	8	3	Q2 2022-23	3	5	Q3 2022-23	7	8	Q4 2022-23	5	3
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<p>What is working well?</p> <p>Good movement of children through the system although complexities of the children’s needs and of the care proceedings require carefully planned transitions.</p>	<p>What are we worried about?</p> <p>Reduced enquiries and decreasing pool of waiting adopters may mean that more children are placed outside of the region.</p>	<p>What do we need to do?</p> <p>Increase the number of enquiries coming through from Swansea. Review current marketing opportunities in Swansea.</p>																																																																																										

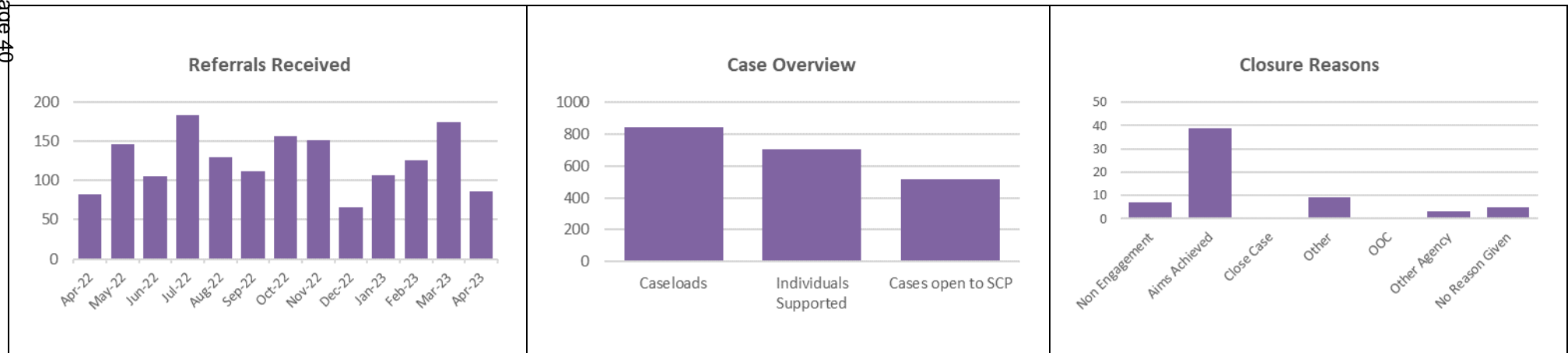


Support Services

Family Support Service

Referrals, Caseload & Closures	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of referrals received by Family Support Services during the month:	174	86
The total number of individuals supported by Family Support Services at the end of the month:	816	844
The total number of individuals closed by Family Supported Services during the month:	144	63
The number of individuals closed with an improved outcome during the month:	104	39

Page 40



What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
We are now understanding our data and can pick out anomalies and trends.	Overall closures are reduced in April compared to previous months.	We need to understand 'spikes' in caseloads across our Reflect service. WCCIS exploration isn't currently providing and explanation.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>Multiple referrals are now separated and we can now see accurate caseloads across the service.</p> <p>Single Point Of Entry (SPOE) has been rolled out to include LAC, CDT and Bays.</p>	<p>Positive closure reasons have dropped by over 15% in the month of April.</p> <p>SPOE roll out has caused some confusion among referring teams and the amount of 'pass back' have increased over the end of April/Beginning of May 23, This is reflected in an overall reduction of referrals to Family Support In April.</p>	<p>Further exploration into the reduction of closures across the services and further work needed to standardise the options used for closure reasons</p>



Single Point of Contact

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Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Service Quality Unit & Child Protection Conference Unit

Child Protection Conferences	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Initial Conferences held during the month:	19	15
The number of Initial Conferences held within timescales during the month:	19*	14*
The number of Review Conferences held during the month:	87	29
The number of Review Conferences held within timescales during the month:	87*	29*

LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews	March 2023	April 2023
The number of LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews carried out during the month:	169	85
The number of LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews held within timescales during the month:	169*	85*

Adoption Reviews	March 2023	April 2023
The number of Adoption Reviews carried out during the month:	7	2
The number of Adoption Reviews held within timescales during the month:	7*	2*

*Figures reported by SQU and CPCU in the absence of a report from WCCIS

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
One review (unborn) was held out of timescales due to Mother not being able to attend a date within the 15 working days. Positively the review was held the next working day (16) so that mother was able to be a part of the discussion.		



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

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SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Professional Abuse Enquires

	March 2023	April 2023
The number of ongoing investigations at the end of the month:	13	16
The number of enquires received during the month:	22	22
The number of enquires re-directed to Adult Services:	1	6
The number of enquires which met threshold for an investigation:	15	13
The number of enquires closed with no further investigation:	5	3
The number of enquires passed onto a different Local Authority:	1	0
The number of Professional Abuse Strategy meetings held during the month:	30	23
The number of Initial meetings held during the month:	16	14
The number of Review meetings held during the month:	14	9
The number of investigations which concluded during the month:	19	9
5 investigations concluded with a Substantiated outcome; 1 was Unsubstantiated and 3 were Unfounded.		

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
Reduction of PAsMs back within the expected range for a month.	Only a small number of PAsMs were concluded this month.	Develop data on where referrals are coming from (within next 3 months).



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

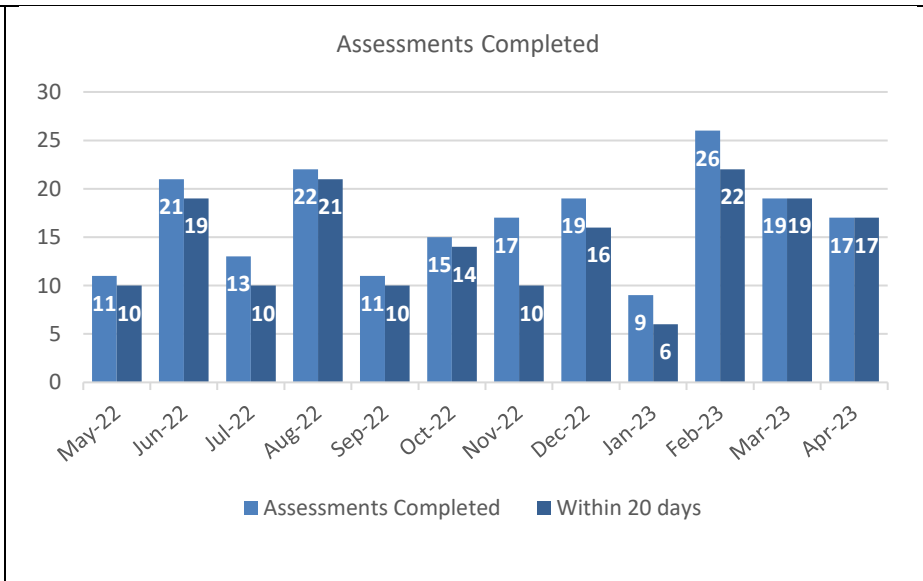
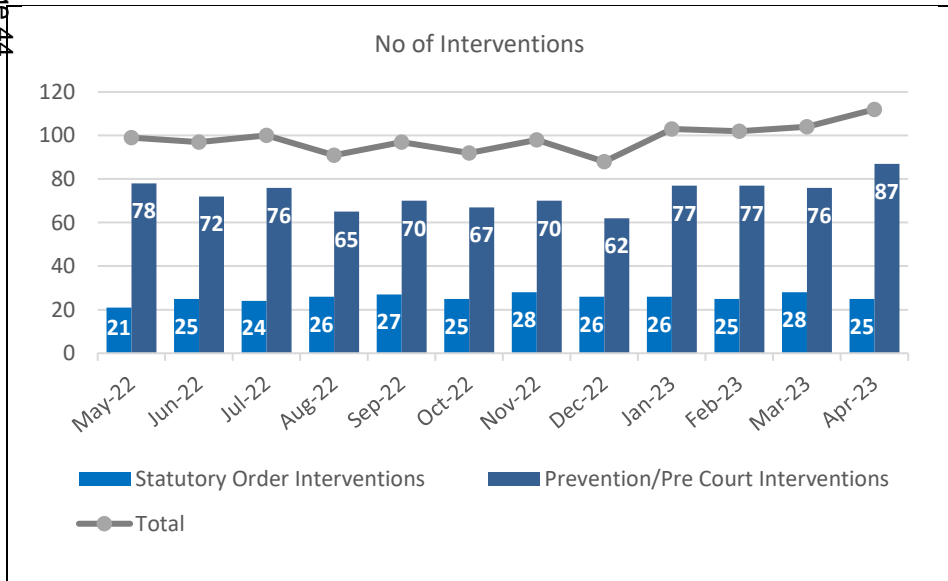
Youth Offending Service

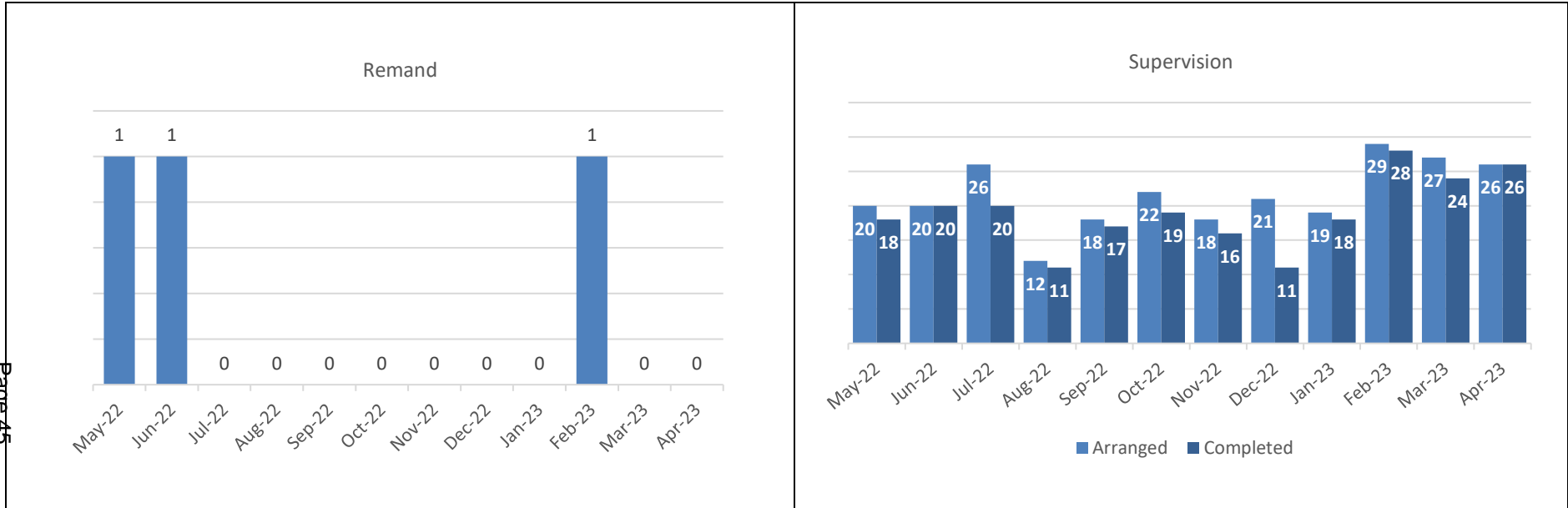
Staff Wellbeing

Youth Offending Service

	March 2023	April 2023
The total number of young people with an open intervention at the end of the month:	104	112
The number of young people on remand at the end of the month:	0	0
The number of Asset Plus Assessments completed during the month:	19	17
The number of Asset Plus Assessments completed within 20 days:	19	17
The number of supervisions that took place during the month:	24	26

Page 44





What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>Intervention numbers have increased in April. This potentially reflects the new Turnaround Project launching.</p> <p>There were no new remands in April.</p> <p>All Asset Plus assessments were completed within timescales.</p> <p>There was an increase in the number of supervisions that took place. All Supervisions arranged were completed.</p>	<p>Young people eligible for Turnaround funding have primarily been identified within the service.</p> <p>We are currently holding a waiting list for prevention referrals.</p>	<p>It is important that the service raise the profile of the Turnaround Project to partner agencies to increase referrals being received.</p> <p>The team are considering ways in which to adapt the services we provide to reduce the prevention waiting list and work with more young people referred to the service, at the earliest possible opportunity.</p>



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
There is an increase in prevention/pre court interventions and a reduction in statutory (Court) cases.		



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

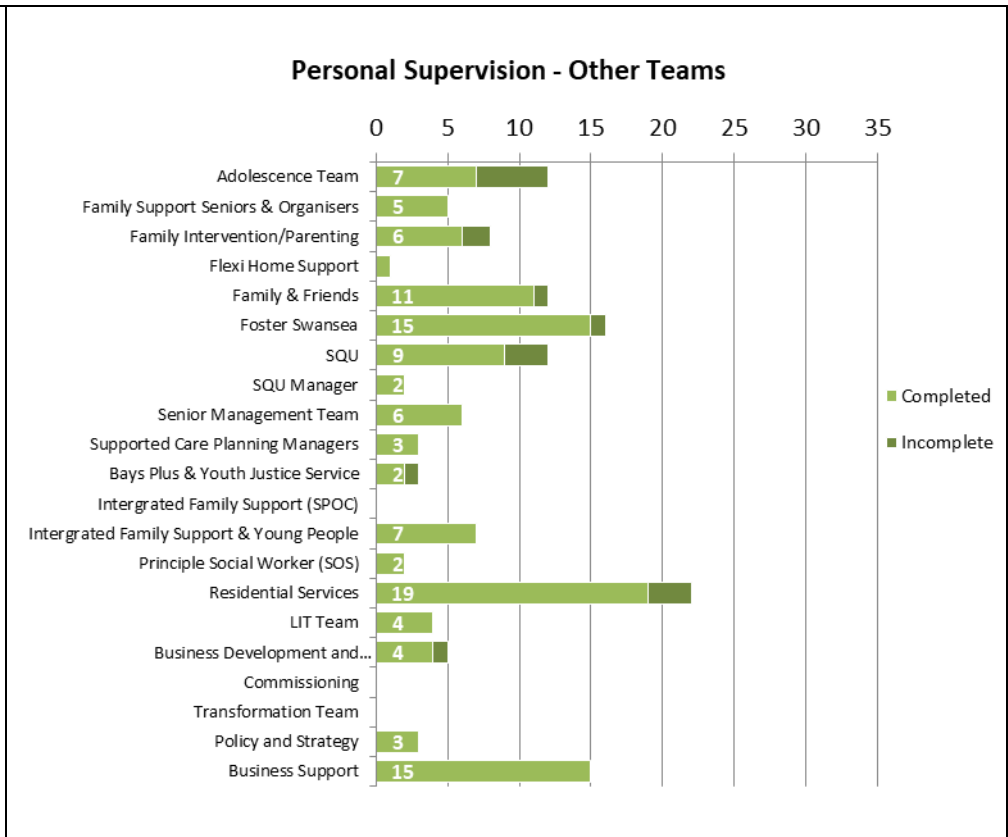
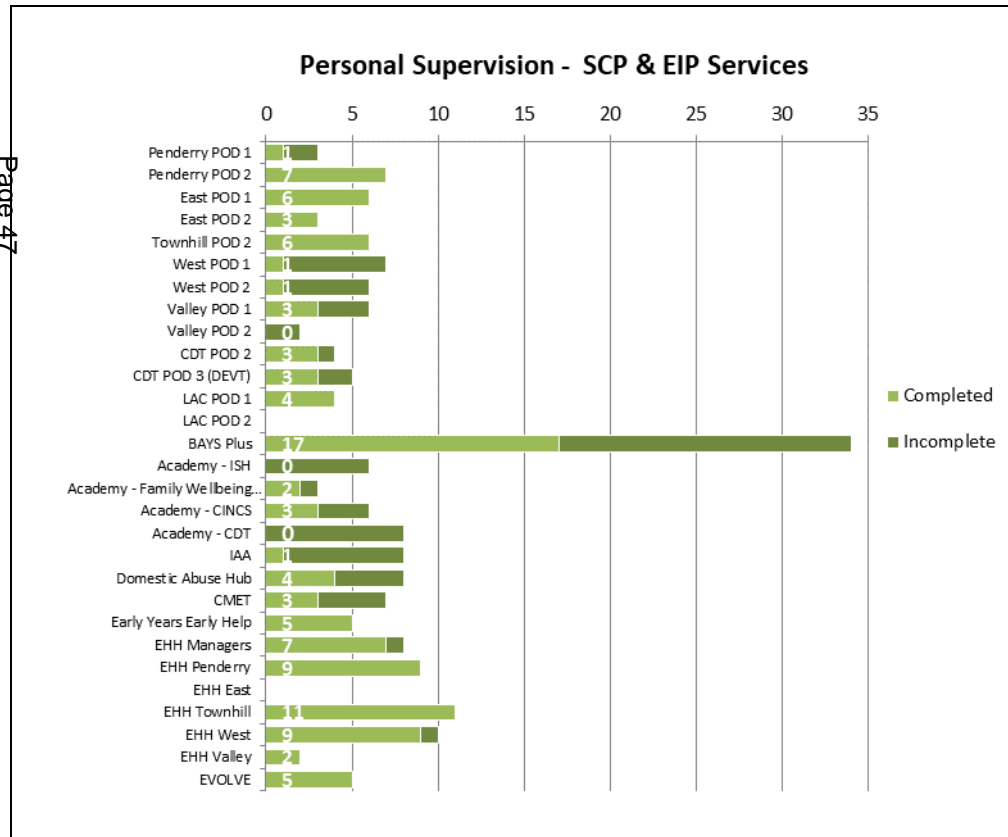
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Staff Wellbeing

Supervision

Personal Supervision	March 2023	April 2023
The percentage of Personal Supervision sessions that took place within timescales:	81.67%	72.48%





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
	Decrease in personal supervision this month	Linked in with Workforce to consider supervision needs of the service – looking to begin this work in September as a joint venture.

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 20th June 2023

Update on the Western Bay Adoption Service

Purpose	To inform scrutiny on the progress of the Western Bay Adoption Service.
Content	This report provides panel with an update on the progress of Western Bay Adoption Service for 2022-23.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider and comment on the progress of the Service.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services
Lead Officer(s)	David Howes (Director of Social Services) David.howes@swansea.gov.uk Julie Davies (Head of Child and Family Services) Julie.davies10@swansea.gov.uk
Report Author	Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager n.rogers@westernbayadoption.org
Legal Officer	N/A
Finance Officer	N/A
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

The report is the Regional Manager's End of Year Summary for 2022-23. The purpose is to provide an overview of performance and within the Western Bay Adoption Service.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

3.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

4. Legal implications

4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 None

Glossary of terms: Please add glossary of terms if you are using acronyms

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Regional Manager's End of Year Summary for 2022-23

Regional Managers End of Year Summary 2022- 23



Current Position

The service has had a busy year focusing on business as usual alongside the development of areas of work such as birth parent support and post adoption contact. Performance data still highlights some stark differences compared to previous years, although business appears to be returning to the performance seen in pre COVID years. The service has benefitted greatly from being able to recruit some adoption support staff from some generated income, they have made a huge impact in embedding areas of the good practise guide. The income generated enables the service to maintain these additional posts for a further 12 month period, however the financial pressures on the Local Authorities will mean that the use of such income may not be possible in future years. We were able to celebrate the work of the service when we hosted a Western Bay conference in July. It was well attended from staff from the Local authorities and enabled staff in the service to showcase their work. The service were also asked to present a workshop on Post Adoption contact at the recent CVAA conference in Cardiff which was attended by the VAA's from across the UK.

Staffing has remained fairly stable throughout the last two quarters with low absence rates, only two member of staff remains on long term sickness. Two business support staff are on maternity leave, which have some temporary cover arrangements.



Children

Overall Summary of Children's Information

	2019/20	2020/21 COVID	2021/22	2022/23
Number of Referrals	153 BCBC 62 NPT 32 SC 59	129 BCBC 44 NPT 39 SC 46	118 BCBC 41 NPT 21 SC 56	115 BCBC 49 NPT 17 SC 48
Number of POG	63 BCBC 18 NPT 16 SC 29	69 BCBC 26 NPT 18 SC 25	34 BCBC 9 NPT 11 SC 14	51 BCBC 18 NPT 7 SC 26
Number of children matched	80 BCBC 22 NPT 22 SC 36	79 BCBC 23 NPT 19 SC 37	51 BCBC 15 NPT 14 SC 18	38 BCBC 8 NPT 7 SC 23
No of children placed	79 BCBC 20 NPT 21 SC 38	69 BCBC 20 NPT 17 SC 32	49 BCBC 17 NPT 14 SC 18	35 BCBC 11 NPT 5 SC 19





Children

Overall Summary of Children's Information Continued

	2019/20	2020/21 COVID	2021/22	2022/23
Of these children number of children placed with WBAS adopters	44	55	32	21
Of these children number placed via the Market Share Project			3	3
Of these children number of children placed with non regional adopters	35	14	14	11
Number of AOG	62 BCBC 17 NPT 14 SC 31	63 BCBC 20 NPT 13 SC 29	61 BCBC 16 NPT 15 SC 30	46 BCBC 17 NPT 10 SC 19

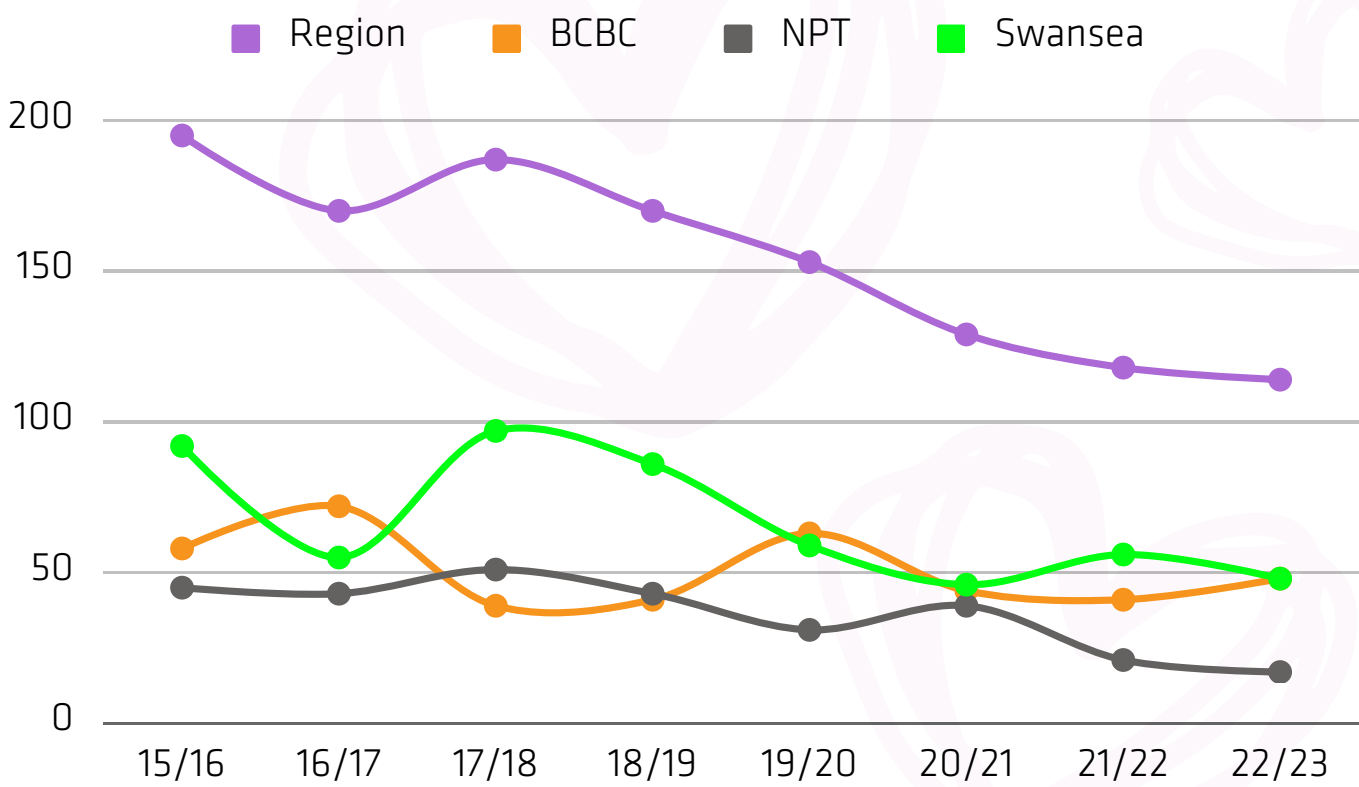




Referrals and Placement Orders

There is a marked downward trend for twin-tracking referrals and POG. When comparing the trend over the last 5 year it shows an interesting pattern of the work that the service receives. The reason for the pattern and recent reduction is work this is hard to determine but factors are likely to be recovery from COVID, the LA's development of preventative and edge of care services. The trend over the last 8 years is as follows for each LA.

Referral for TwinTracking to WBAS each year:

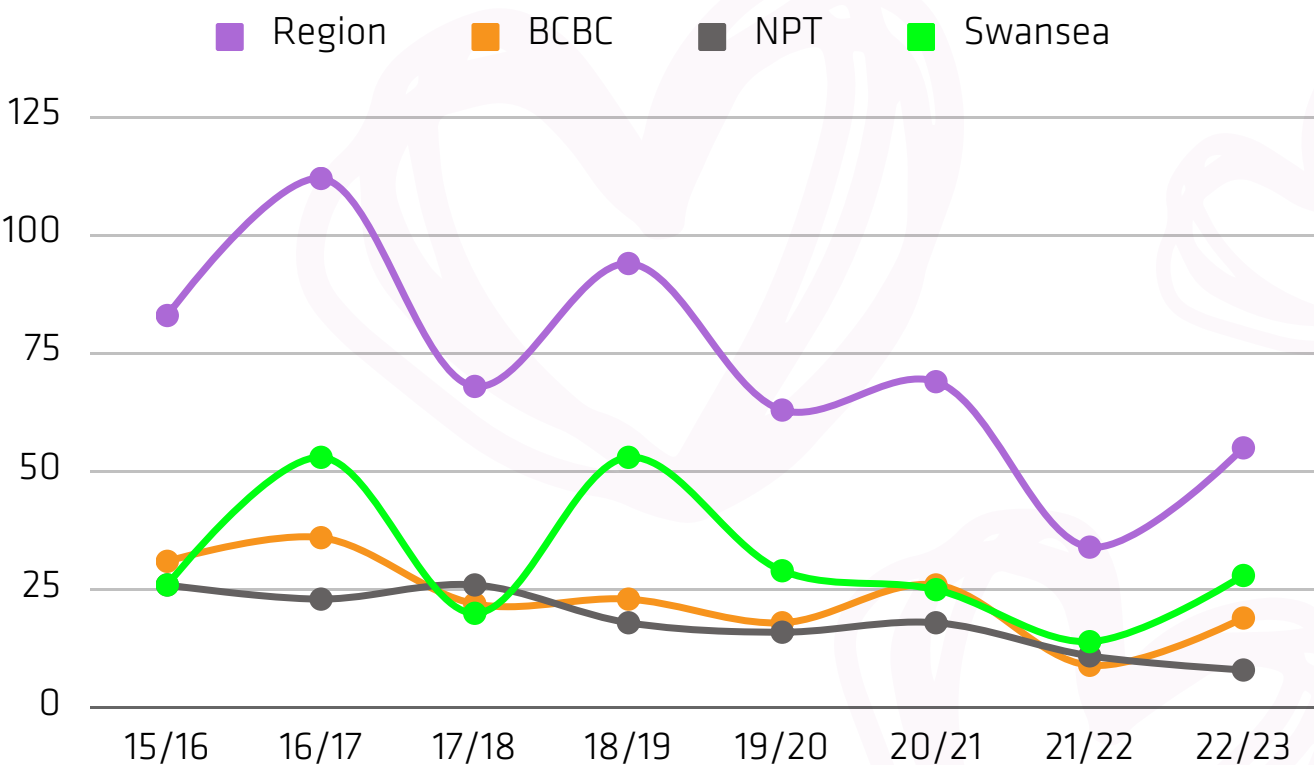




POG

After two years in which the service has seen a marked reduction in placement orders being granted this year has seen numbers rise again particularly in the latter two quarters. When looking at the trend line there appears an overall downward trend and it is likely that the service will probably settle around the 55-60 POG each year as the new norm.

POG Per Quarter Per Year

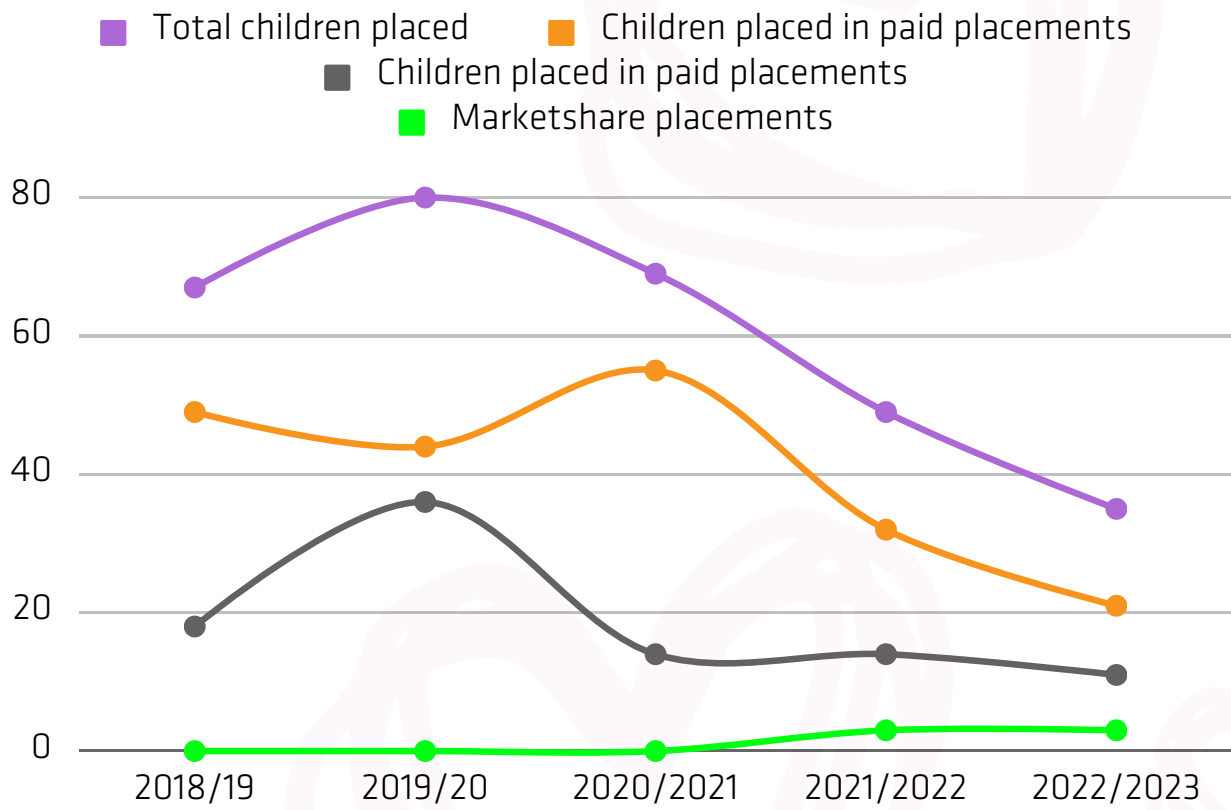


The reduction in referrals and POG has had a follow on effect in relation to the number of children placed for adoption. The children being referred are increasingly presenting with more complex health, genetic and developmental issues.





Children placed for adoption



Of the 35 children placed this year, 21 were placed with regional adopters, 1 child was placed in New Zealand which was heavily supported by the region, 3 children were placed via the market share project (Barnardo's). 11 children were placed out of the region - 1 of these children remained in Wales, 10 of these outside Wales, 1 in Scotland and 9 in England.

Number of Adoption Order's granted

The number of adoption orders granted has remained consistent and the Court deal with applications in a timely manner. Currently there are 23 children placed in adoption placements where the AOG has not yet been granted, of these 9 are not yet eligible to make the application, the longest placement was made in April 2022, that application is currently before the court.





Disruptions & Breakdowns of Placement

Within Western Bay during 2022-23 there has been two placement disruptions post formal placement, a sibling group of two and a single child. The independent review report has been received in respect of both disruptions and actions considered. Staff in the service will consider the outcomes of both in a service learning event in April.

Children Waiting

At the end of the year 22 children were waiting without a strong link or matching panel booked. The average age of the children waiting was 4 years old. The average length of time waiting 5 months with the longest time waiting being 15 months. 9 of the 11 children have complex medical or genetic diagnosis.

Birth parent adopter meetings

These meetings have been a focus for the service as when they have taken place the quality of the post adoption contact is vastly improved. Of the 35 children placed this year, 23 birth parents were offered meetings with the adopters. The parents of 12 children attended these meetings which were seen as hugely positive and beneficial to those involved, parents of 4 further children have agreed they would like to meet but have requested these meetings take place after the child is placed so these are in the pipeline.





Adopters

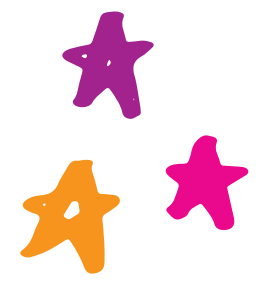
Enquiries and adopters interested in attending the intro to adoption course have been extremely slow this year which has been noted by all regions. The impact of the cost of living crisis is likely to be having an impact on families who may have considered adoption as an option.

Enquiries and Adopter Approval

Enquiries are reduced on the previous 2 years (Covid years) and have returned to the levels that we saw pre covid. The service approved 31 adopters which is short of the target set but in line with the number of children that we saw with an agreed plan of adoption.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of Enquiries	166	260	224	164
Number of Approved Adopters	54	53	52	31





The reduction in children waiting and the steady flow of adopters being approved throughout the year has seen a high number of children waiting without a link. The number now stands at 25.

An audit of the 31 approved adopters at end of year March 2023 has been undertaken and the following identified:

	Number of families approved 2020-21 (53)	Number of Adoptive families approved 2021-22 (52)	Number of Adoptive Families Approved 2022-23 (31)
Bridgend	9	10	14
Swansea	25	22	7
Neath Port Talbot	8	11	4
Cardiff Area	7	5	2





	Number of families approved 2020-21 (53)	Number of Adoptive families approved 2021-22 (52)	Number of Adoptive Families Approved 2022-23 (31)
Carmarthenshire and Tenby	3	5	3
England	1	1	1

Of the 31 approved adopters this year, they can further be broken down into approvals of 4 single adopters, 5 adopters from same sex relationships and 22 heterosexual couples.

This year has seen an increase in the interest and number of adopters from Bridgend which is a positive outcome. The number of adopters coming from the Swansea area has reduced considerably so the marketing activity will need to refocus in the area.

Non Agency referrals

Following an increase in referrals over the COVID years the number of non-agency referrals has now returned to previous levels. This year we have received 55 referrals. There is no longer a waiting list and the triage system in place allows inappropriate referrals to be screened out straight away.





Development of Adoption Support

Our families tell us how well supported they feel by our team around the family ethos. All our social workers are DDP and trauma recovery model trained, this is a therapy and parenting approach which enables children who have suffered trauma to form attachments. This in itself has made the biggest difference to our families who are struggling to parent traumatised children with attachment difficulties.

We have successfully developed and are embedding our early intervention services, this ranges from using the adopter check ins at 12 months and 3 years, families being able to book in to a virtual hub consultation to discuss the issues they face rather than make a formal referral for an assessment when that may not be needed and screening cases that may be suitable for ongoing referral to Pathway formerly known as TESSA.

Some Key Developments in Adoption Support

Virtual Hub Consultations. Virtual hub runs fortnightly and give adoptive parents opportunity to meet with a therapeutic social worker and a therapist to talk through any difficulties they may be experiencing. The team are then able to offer support/assess adoption support needs and to refer parents into the appropriate resource within the service. All adopters attended confirmed that they felt more confident in managing the issues they brought to discuss following the consultation.

Outcomes for those who attended included signposting to other agencies such as SNAP, further discussions with school re the issues, referrals on to Pathway, referral for in house therapy, agreement to full adoption support assessment and referred on to the life-journey workshop and NVR course run by the service.





Adopters provided the following comments: "It feels like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders, I have been able to speak to people who get it".

BUSS - Building Underdeveloped Sensori Motor Systems Training. It has been recognised by research, and supported by WBAS observations, that children who have experienced developmental trauma have difficulties with their sensori motor systems. Since June 2021 all WBAS staff attend the Introduction to BUSS workshop as part of their induction enabling the Service to have a baseline understanding and common language around sensory motor difficulties resulting from early trauma. From May 2023 we will be running two 11 week BUSS group interventions in the gymnastics centre in Neath. One for 2-4 year olds and one for 4-6 year olds, the children identified for this intervention will attend with their adopted parents.

Schools training. 28 Schools have attended the workshop during the year, with 3 further onsite trainings undertaken.

Adopter and Birth Parent Reviews. In line with the recommendations of the Good Practise Guides adopter and birth parents check ins are being completed by the team. For the first year check-ins have been completed for adopters and Birth parents 3 years post AOG. This is a great way of identifying any early adoption support needs for adopters, children and birth parents.

Therapeutic Parenting Programme. All our adopters are encouraged to attend our therapeutic parenting programme. 27 families have attended the post 18 months therapeutic parenting course since September.

"I've loved the course. It's really been life changing.
Thanks so much."





Post Adoption Contact. We have developed a Letterbox team who have worked hard to improve the efficiency of this area of our service. We no longer have backlog of letterbox and are more able to keep on top of our contact investigation referrals. A focus group on post adoption contact has commenced, participants from all areas of the three local Authorities have come together to consider how we can influence the contact agenda.

Child and Young Person's work. The annual summer party and Christmas party were hugely successful with well over 100 families attending both events. The Adoption support workers are currently undertaking work on a one to one basis with 15 children. The youth group for 13+ started in September and has been a huge success particularly for previously hard to reach children. For most of the children who attend this is the first time they have successfully engaged in a group. 16 young people are engaged in the group.

Life-Journey Framework. In October/November 2022, the third year of the WBAS Life Journey Awards took place. Social Workers, Practice Support Workers, Foster Carers, Adopters and Birth Family Members were nominated and celebrated for the work they have done in helping a child/children to understand their journey to adoption. The winners were very pleased to be recognised for their work.

Birth Parent Support. Separate Groups now run in the 3 Local Authorities, once a month. A winter wellbeing event was arranged in December bringing Birth mothers from across the region together, 18 birth mothers attended. The session ended with a mindfulness exercise and Mums were provided with well-being bags to take home. Feedback after the event was positive:

"Just wanted to say thank you for inviting me yesterday, I really enjoyed. I will definitely be coming to the next big event xx"





Marketing

We kicked off the autumn season at the beginning of October with a trade stand at The Welsh Business Show at the Swansea.com Stadium. We engaged with members of the local business community included some who had adopted and featured heavily in the organiser's event media.



Continuing with the in-person theme our October Adoption Information Session was held at Blancos Hotel in Port Talbot with around 10 people attending and learning more about the adoption process.



The middle of October saw the return of the annual National Adoption Week (NAW) and with it some key media releases and activity. As a region Team WBAS launched NAW with a service-wide charity walk up Pen y Fan Mountain. We had a great turn out for the walk internally and were also joined from colleagues from VVC Adoption.

Some staff members conquered personal fears and challenges during the walk whilst we also addressed some of the preconceptions about the children the longest for adoption. Importantly we also raised over £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Research!

Nationally we released Season 2 of the 'Truth Be Told' podcast which featured heavily a WBAS adopter talking candidly about the additional learning needs of adopted children amongst other pertinent topics. The podcast has performed well on reflection (in late March 2023) racking up 1000's of listens between the two seasons.



Our local authorities of Swansea, Neath and Bridgend supported us strongly as ever during the week with some lighting up their civic buildings to mark the start and end of the week. During the month to celebrate adoption week we also had a radio advert with Nation Radio which featured spoken word poetry and a advert using the new digital billboard in Aberavon Shopping Centre to further drive awareness of adoption.





Maintaining our strong community presence in Bridgend into the winter and November we attended home games at the Dunraven Brewery Field Stadium between Bridgend Ravens and Aberavon RFC.



Continuing with the in-person theme our October Adoption Information Session was held at Blancos Hotel in Port Talbot with around 10 people attending and learning more about the adoption process.

This theme continued in early November with our presence at the TATA Steel Richard Burton 10K and Kevin Webber Mini Miller Race in the heart of our NPT community in Cwmavon. We gave out WBAS goodie bags to all children who attended the race with the help of the local scouts and Air Cadets and created an impact on the event which was attended and participated in by 1000's.



Still in chilly November Team WBAS 'dipped deep' for Children In Need raising a few hundred pounds by taking a cold water swim down a brisk Caswell Bay.

At the end of November we attended the Bridgend Council Family Support Event, creating some useful connections with various Bridgend family and children services.

In December we launched some new features on our recently refreshed and redesigned website. One feature which has proven to be very successful our new Adoption Checker function. It serves as a pre-screening and myth busting tool, allowing users to find out if they eligible to adopt and what to if they can't.



At the time of writing the adoption checker is our main source of adoption enquiries, generating 4 - 5 pre-qualified enquiries per week.





Our WBAS Christmas Party was then a great way to sign off the year with a bang. Proving as popular as our big events such as the WBAS Summer Party, staff and adoptive families alike had a 'bearilliant' time!



We kicked off the New Year with an explosion of colour and creativity from our adopted children with the unveiling of our Children's Art Mural in Tregelles Court. We held a workshop earlier in the winter with around 10 children and prominent Swansea based company Fresh Creative. The mural now takes pride of place in our office corridors adding some much needed colour! Julie Davies Swansea Council Child and Family HOS and Victoria Smith LAC PO were on hand to help with the unveiling.

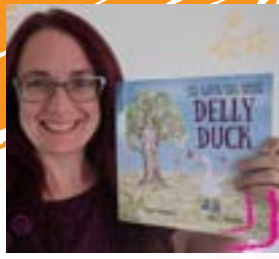


Still in January Julie and Victoria were on hand again to help us with the judging of our Annual Life Journey Awards. Winners were given book and cinema vouchers. The judging was a heart warming occasion, showcasing the care and effort that adoptive parents, birth parents, foster carers and professionals put into important life journey work.

At the end of January we also attend the awards ceremony for the Richard Burton 10K at TATA Steel - making some great community connections and receiving acknowledgment for our efforts on the day of the race. The Chief Executive of TATA Steel was also present at the awards.



Finally at the end of a busy month we kicked off our Let's Talk Adoption series of talks and content with a virtual talk by adoption author Holly Marlow. Around 40 adopters booked in to the talk with some fantastic feedback received from adopters. The series continues throughout the year with different guests. ☆



Sticking with campaigns and content our social media has also developed during this time offering a much bigger range from our community work and recent messages to more educational posts. ☆





Our social media is currently performing better than ever with 1000's of engagement and reach per month - this contrasts quite starkly to other regional adoptive agencies and similar sector services.

February we were out in the community again, this time supporting Children's Mental Health Week at Swansea Quadrant Shopping Centre.



Meanwhile we also received our new signed jersey from Bridgend Ravens RFC for our commercial partnership which has certainly helped us to address the issue of low recruitment in the county.

Following on from feedback from the workshop with children for the mural we also held a Street Art/Graffiti Lettering workshop with children in Gnoll Park.

March we continued our Let's Talk Adoption series on 'World Book Day' with popular adoption author Rosemary Lucas. The event this time was face to face in the Aberavon Beach Hotel. Around 30 adopters registered for the event, with again fantastic feedback from those who attended. The series of talks have so far been engaging and educational to those to attended, and have also contributed to our overall very strong social media performance with blogs and recordings of the events proving popular.



Our busy stream of social media continued during the month with our support of New Family Social's LGBTQ Adoption and Fostering Week, whilst we also got out into the NPT community with Foster NPT at the new town leisure centre. Continuing our NPT community outreach work in Margam, I run the Margam 10K to support the Lord Mayors Charity with support from some NPT and WBAS staff





As alluded to above throughout this 6 period our social media and online presence has gone from strength to strength with 1000's of engagement each month. Key to this is the diversity of our content from educational content to funnier, irreverent team based posts. To keep improving and drive our assessment rates we are aiming to target LGBTQ audiences and potential adopters for siblings more in the next quarter.



The refresh of our website has also been successful, with the new look of the site better encapsulating the dynamic and colourful values of the service. We have around 150 visitors to the site a week at the moment but this is something we can improve on in the next quarter with improved digital advertising and site refinements.

Finally, still looking ahead we need to increase enquiries in Swansea and NPT whilst maintaining our improvement in Bridgend. We will achieve this with better targeted digital advertising and increased presence in these communities.

#TeamWBAS





Future Recommendations

Areas and priorities for future development for the rest of this year are:

One of the future hopes for our service is that we would be able to access respite for our adoptive families.

Re-modelling of the service to align with the available budget, a forward look at the service over the next 1, 3 and 5 years.

Further embedding of the GPG's

To increase the number of approved adopters to 40 next year.

To ensure a continued marketing focus in each of the LA areas

Further Implement the BUSS model of sensory processing and start the 10 week sensory course

Partnership with Foster Wales at local and regional level

High visibility at local and national events.

Review all Letterbox post 18. We will contact all adopters when their child reaches 17 to ask adopters and young person if they would like to continue letterbox post 18, this can continue until age 25.

Thanks for reading!



Agenda Item 8

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 **DRAFT**

<p>22 May 2023</p> <p>3pm</p>	<p>Confirmation of Convener</p> <p>Child and Family Complaints Annual Report 2021/22 <i>Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer Services</i></p> <p>Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes / Julie Davies</i></p> <p>Panel Review of the Year 2022-23</p>
<p>20 June 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Update on Regional Adoption Service <i>Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption Service</i></p> <p>Draft Work Programme 2023-24</p>
<p>2 August 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Annual Wellbeing/Performance Report <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Performance</i></p> <p>Residential Care Services (including update on Ty Nant) <i>Chris Griffiths, Principal Officer, Residential Services</i></p>
<p>13 September 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Presentation by Young Carers <i>Gavin Evans, Principal Officer, Family Support Services</i></p> <p>Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p>
<p>24 October 2023</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Update from Regional Safeguarding Board <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Performance</i></p> <p>Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Performance</i></p>

	<p>Commissioning Reviews Progress Update <i>Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioner</i> <i>Claire Edwards, Principal Officer Commissioning and Care Services</i></p>
<p>5 December 2023 4.30pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Gemma Whyley, Principal Officer, Transformation</i></p> <p>Update on Contextual Missing Exploited & Trafficked (CMET) <i>Kelli Richards, Early Help & Single Point of Contact</i></p>
<p>23 January 2024 4pm</p>	<p>Update on Progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) <i>Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning, Swansea Bay University Health Board</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Update <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p>
<p>BUDGET MEETING ? February 2024</p> <p>JOINT SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING</p>	<p>Draft Budget Proposals for Child and Family Services / Adult Services <i>Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services</i> <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i></p> <p>Child and Family Services / Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2022-23 <i>Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer Services</i></p>
<p>12 March 2024 4pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Briefing on Youth Offending Service <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p>
<p>1 May 2024 4pm</p>	<p>Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes / Julie Davies</i></p> <p>Panel Review of the Year 2023/24</p>

Future work programme items:

- Wales Audit Office Reports (dates to be confirmed)
- Briefing on Supported Living for Young People TBC