

Cabinet Member for Services for Children and Young people

Objectives and progress against these for 2015/16:

Objective	Action & delivery	How will progress be monitored?	Review of Progress
Corporate Objectives			
Effectively deliver the Safe LAC Reduction Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to reduce the numbers of Looked After Children safely • Undertake the Townhill care continuum pilot • Ensure effective delivery of the Council's Corporate Parenting Forum and role • Development of a three year budget strategy for Child and Families and Early Intervention services • Set up and review the DV HU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of LAC Strategy March 2016 • Pilot reviewed February 2016 • Regularly review the role and effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Parenting function with the Leader • Three year budget strategies produced by October 2015 • DV Hub review February 2016 	<p>In June this year the number of children looked after in Swansea reduced to 502, the lowest since 2008/9. The numbers of children looked after in residential settings has reduced to 37 (June 2014, 48 – June 2013, 59) and more children are being looked after by Foster Swansea than in IFA provision</p> <p>Care continuum pilot is being worked up now – scoped over the next 2 months.</p> <p>Revised strategy for Corporate Parenting is being drafted and will be consulted on.</p> <p>The three year financial strategy is in place and is in its second year of implementation. The strategy is for review in October 2016. Child and Family Services cost £3m less in 2014/15 than two years ago.</p>

<p>Ensure children and young people remain a priority in cross-Council work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Revitalise the CYP Board and Plan § Continue to embed the UNCRC into the Council's business § Ensure effective participation by children and young people and undertake Big Conversation programme § Ensure the delivery and success of the Youth Progression and Engagement Framework in the reduction of NEETS including a co-ordinated response with YOT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § CYP Plan reviewed and agreed by Council by October 2015 § Annual Report on UNCRC scheme produced and approved at Council by December 2015 § Big Conversation programme taking place and events regularly reported to Council § Reduction in the number of NEETs in December 2015 	<p>Revised CYP Board has been established.</p> <p>CYP Plan being developed being driven by the UNCRC</p> <p>Information being gathered for the UNCRC Annual report</p> <p>Big Conversation programme established</p> <p>October will be the published NEETS figure for 2014/15.</p>
<p>Ensure effective oversight of safeguarding arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Ensure delivery of the Council's corporate safeguarding functions § Develop a programme of activity to ensure schools are effectively equipped to offer support to families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Regular update reporting to the Leader on corporate safeguarding arrangements § Schools family support programme in place by September 2015 	<p>Mandatory e learning is in place for all staff and elected members</p> <p>An important event on this journey was the WB Child Sexual Exploitation event, attended by 360 delegates. This is being followed up by a review of our action plans, and to better co-ordinate our efforts through the regional safeguarding boards. In total 995 members of staff have completed e learning and 1042 the adult safeguarding module.</p>

Child and Family Services:

Child and Family Services are committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families. The service is focused on achieving safety and wellbeing for children, and achieving sustainability based on promoting excellence in social work practice, implementing the requirements of the SS and Wellbeing Act 2014, continued implementation of the safe LAC reduction strategy and delivering on Swansea's continuum of need.

There are now 6 key service priorities

- Refocusing the Safe LAC reduction strategy
- Embedding the SOS practice model
- Workforce
- Continuum of need
- Participation and learning
- Financial sustainability

Corporate Objectives

Safeguarding vulnerable people - Corporate Safeguarding strategy - There has been strong leadership of the Corporate Safeguarding agenda. From a relatively low base Swansea now has some of the best arrangements in place to ensure safeguarding is 'everybody's business' and is the number one corporate priority. Mandatory e learning is in place for all staff and elected members, with safeguarding champions in place in each service area to share and cascade information. An important event on this journey was the WB Child Sexual Exploitation event, attended by 360 delegates. This is being followed up by a review of our action plans, and to better co-ordinate our efforts through the regional safeguarding boards. In total 995 members of staff have completed e learning and 1042 the adult safeguarding module.

Effective delivery of the Safe LAC Reduction Strategy – The safe LAC reduction strategy has continued to be effective. In June this year the number of children looked after in Swansea reduced to 502, the lowest since 2008/9. The numbers of children looked after in residential settings has reduced to 37 (June 2014, 48 – June 2013, 59) and more children are being looked after by Foster Swansea than in IFA provision. We must not however be complacent and the SMT within C&F services are currently reviewing the strategy. The priorities going forward are to safely reduce the LAC population by reducing the number of children entering the LAC system, reducing the time spent 'in care' and ensuring more

children return safely to the care of their parents and families. In addition further modelling work will be undertaken with Foster Swansea to ensure the service is able to cost effectively meet the needs of Swansea's looked after children. To date this strategy has resulted in reduced expenditure of £2m.

The three year financial strategy is in place and is in its second year of implementation. The strategy is for review in October 2016. Child and Family Services cost £3m less in 2014/15 than two years ago.

Corporate Parenting Forum (CPF) – this has been a busy period of time for the CPF, with a high level of activity being undertaken outside the Forum. The work plan 2015-16, revised TOR, membership proposals and draft CP strategy will be presented to the next forum in August. The forum will also be considering the;

- Thematic Review of the Educational Attainment of LAC.
- National CSSIW Inspection of Safeguarding and Care Planning of LAC & Care Leavers who Exhibit Vulnerable or Risky Behaviours (January 2015).
- Progress Report in Relation to the Recommendations of the CSSIW Inspection of Vulnerable LAC & Care Leavers (August 2014).

The Permanence review is addressing the recommendations of the above inspection reports and important changes are underway such as a:

- Family and Friends team becoming a Kinship Care Team
- New LAC team (up to 16 years)
- Reconfigured Post 16 service, which will be delivered in partnership, following a tendering process which is underway.

Improved outcomes for older looked after children and care leavers are expected from these arrangements.

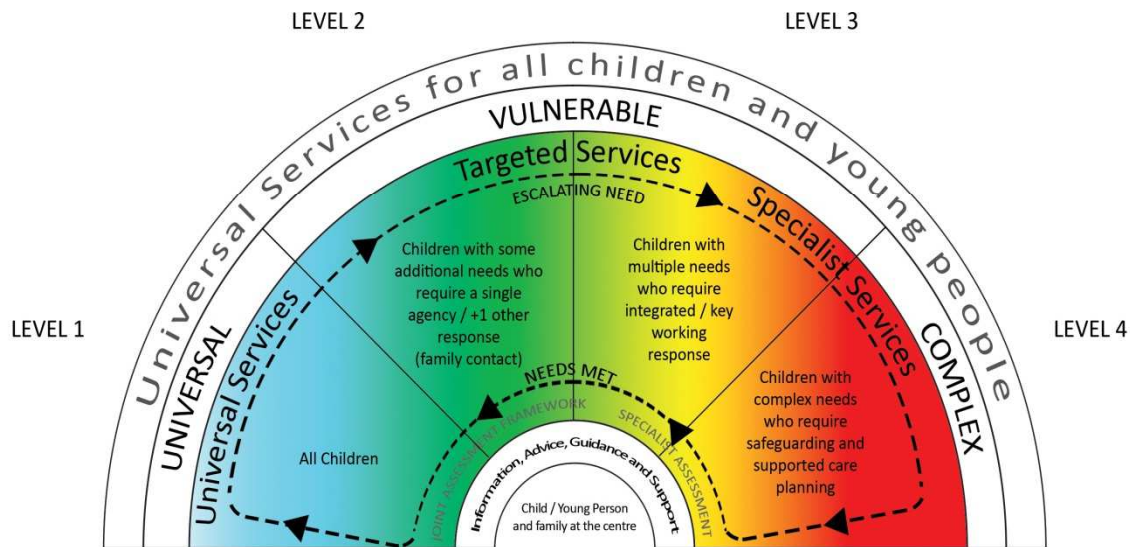
Proposals are also being brought to the CP Forum in relation to developing a virtual school for LAC, and a participation and engagement framework and care council. The virtual school will support and monitor key issues such as attendance and attainment and the participation framework will assist the co-ordination of work in Swansea around promoting the voice of the child and fits with the UNCRC and rights respecting schools agenda. The Corporate Parenting challenge on 13/03/2015 will be commenting and building on the CP strategy. The annual report is being prepared which will provide detail of the work achieved throughout last year and plans going forward.

The work on the CP strategy has identified issues relating to Governance arrangements. Discussions about links to the safeguarding board and

CYP are required.

Undertake the Townhill care continuum pilot - the Project Board has produced a briefing paper and is building a service specification for the pilot. The proof of concept pilot will be undertaken within the Townhill area of Swansea and rolled out Swansea wide in 2016?

How we Support Children and Families in Swansea



'A key principle is that children are best looked after within their families, with their parents playing a full part in their lives unless compulsory intervention is necessary'

Introduction to part 9 of the Social Services and wellbeing (wales) Act 2014

DV Hub – Child and Family services are currently serving the DV Hub within Cockett Police station. The team of four staff currently screen all PNN's (Police DV reports), and make decisions as to whether a SW or early intervention response is required. There is close collaborative working with Police, Health, Education, Housing, Women's aid, Hafan Cymru and Infonation. The team also provide group and 1:1 support to children and victims of DV and run perpetrator programmes.

2014/15 performance information

4317 PPN's (excluding any already open to C&F services)

1630 of those were closed NFA at the point of receipt

1355 were diverted to Universal or PEI services by DA referral co-ordinator

1332 were referred onto CCARAT

1029 of those referred to CCARAT were diverted to Universal or PEI services and closed

303 were allocated for Initial Assessment

Performance

In general Child and Family services performance has been improving year on year. Despite the remodelling of the front door arrangements through 2014, in readiness for the implementation of the SS and Wellbeing Act 2014, performance in Initial assessments has maintained high and the number of children seen as part of the assessment has improved, although children seen alone will be a focus for next year. Since June 2104 performance in timescales for core assessments has steadily improved and in June, this year exceeded target. The focus going forward is to maintain this performance and focus on quality. Child protection work has remained consistent, with improvements in timescales of conferences and reviews and pleasingly in the 10 day timescale of core groups following first conference, which exceeded target and hit 100% in June.

The safe LAC reduction strategy is supporting performance around looked after children, and we are approaching a watershed of numbers falling below 500 this year.

Poverty & Prevention:

1. Flying Start

Headlines

- Over the past 12 months a considerable focus has been on the expansion of Phases 2 and 3 of the Flying Start Programme via the model of co-locating the services at Primary schools in the targeted areas.
- 6 new settings were structurally completed during 2014/15 and 3 settings completed during 2014/15 became fully operational during the course of the year offering childcare, health visiting, parenting and early language development support. In addition one of our Phase 1 settings expanded to incorporate additional phase 2 areas, doubling in size (Clwyd).
- 2014/15 was the full year implementation of the Attendance Policy which was developed to ensure effective management of childcare places through the application of a consistent approach across the Programme. Despite considerable instability caused via the expansion and changes to Flying Start catchments, the focus on attendance resulted in the average level of attendance across the Programme remaining stable at 79.5% and a reduction in unauthorised absences from 3% to 2%.
- Achieving 79.5% attendance across the Programme during 2014/15 was a big achievement as a reduction in % attendance had been expected. The reduction was expected due to the expansion as new settings destabilised staffing at existing childcare settings as well as the time it takes for new childcare settings to become established.
- The average development score for 2 and 3 year olds across the Programme has also remained fairly stable. Whilst this is not a measure which will be compared from year to year it is positive that there has been little change despite the difficulties encountered during 2014/15 to recruit sufficient staff (health visitors, early language development staff and childcare staff) and despite the expansion when a considerable number of new children have moved into the Programme at a late stage and therefore not benefited from the services on offer prior to this.
- 578 individual families in 2014/15, equating to approximately 1270 children have received the Parenting Service element of the Flying Start Programme. Often both mum and dad are supported and both may have accessed more than one offer of support from the service. The data provided in this report needs to be considered alongside the individual story for each family as it derives from their own self-evaluation of the distance they feel that they have travelled.
- Whilst Positive Parenting remains the main focus of the Parenting element the Family Partnership Team has developed a pathway of support which also incorporates parental wellbeing. Positive mental health has a very strong impact on the child's multiple levels of

development and their own future health determinants. Parents describe having positive mental health and confidence as having a major impact on being able to transfer knowledge into practice and in turn improving their parenting skills and their relationship with their child.

Areas to develop

- To have 3 additional childcare settings up and running at Parklands, Plasmarl and Pontarddulais Primary School bases. This will also include the Health Visitor and wider members of the Team.
- To complete the capital works for the re-location of a welsh medium childcare facility.
- The expected implementation of the EYDAF in the Foundation Phase which may influence the development of the Flying Start Developmental Tracker used in childcare.
- The expected implementation of the National Healthy Child Programme which may impact on the Flying Start Health Visiting Service.
- Full implementation of the Early Language Development Pathway as soon as all posts are filled.

2. Families First

Headlines

Re-commissioning process undertaken to ensure that the Programme was fit for purpose in terms of :

- Fitting the principles of the Families First Programme with a clear focus on holistic, co-ordinated and integrated whole-family approaches
- Sit within the prevention and early intervention section of the wider continuum of provision
- Be able to demonstrate impact e.g. via evidence of distance travelled
- Be targeted to meet local identified needs
- Be evidence-based
- The centrepiece of the Programme is the mandatory Team Around the Family and the Programme will focus on the development of an Early Integrated pathway of support lining in closely with the principles of the Healthy Cities Board as well as Young People and Families, Community based family focused provision as well as thematic services such as counselling.
- The Family Partnership Team has been cited as an example of leading practice by external experts including Honour Rhodes OBE and Professor Karen Graham. It is expected that these individuals would expect to showcase the quality, approach and impact of the team at a national level during the forthcoming year.

Areas to develop

- Full implementation and quality assurance and further embedding the TAF approach and an even greater focus on analysis of impact across the board.

Case studies attached for you

Development of the Council's commitment to the UNCRC – Council has now approved its UNCRC scheme and has had a formal launch event.

The work with schools to support their development to achieve the Rights Respecting Schools Award continues, with 90% of schools now having begun their journey to Level 1, and our first secondary school achieving Level 1 earlier this autumn.

While there has been no overall movement in the number of schools registered (still at 89%) from March 2015, there has been movement in those achieving the level 1 and level 2 award over the Summer Term.

Those who have achieved level 1 status in the Summer Term include;

- Newton Primary School
- Talcopa Primary School
- Gendros Primary School
- St Helen's Primary School
- Gowerton Primary School
- Cwmrhydyceirw Primary School
- Clwyd Primary School
- Penyrheol Comprehensive School

Those who have achieved Level 2 status in the Summer Term include;

- Terrace Road Primary School
- Pentre'r Graig Primary School
- Pontybrenin Primary School
- Penlleger Primary School
- Pontarddulais Primary School

Swansea Young People Services Key Developments

It is a significant period of change and development for the Young People Services and I have continued to support the development of Service around its four key policy and guidance areas:

1. WG National Youth Work Strategy 2013 – 18
2. WG Engagement and Progression Framework
3. Swansea's Safe LAC Reduction Strategy
4. Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014

Cutting through all four of these areas is the critical development of the **lead work role** for young people and their families:

This role is a key factor in the delivery of three of the corporate priorities including:

Pupil Attainment

Pupil Attendance

Safeguarding vulnerable young people and their families

Key developments of this role:

- The 'Lead Worker' principle and job description agreed and adopted by NEET Board based on the outcomes of the IPC commissioned research.
- The 'Lead Worker' role has been embedded across full time and substantial posts within the Young People Services.

- The Young People Services Lead Workers have been aligned to pre 16 pupils via their secondary schools and geographical area on the basis of need with brokerage via Multi Agency Meetings in schools.
- Lead Work roles have been aligned to post 16 NEET pupils on a geographical basis with brokerage arrangements via monthly cluster meetings with the careers service.
- The Sustainable Swansea Programme has supported cross service developments between Social Services, Education and Poverty and Prevention to understand the lead worker role in relation to both NEET model (the Engagement and Progression Framework) and a social care model (the continuum of need).
- The 'Team around the Family' approach has been embedded in lead work roles.
- The mapping work identified a gap in provision at Level 3 on the continuum where the most complex and vulnerable families can require a high level of intervention and create high levels of demand for the front door of social services.

A key decision has been taken to support a large restructure of parts of the Young People Services which has enabled the development of a new Level 3 Team which will be aligned to schools, EOTAS and the Social Services Area teams.

A pilot in the Townhill area will support the development of this team and the brokerage and systems right across the 'continuum of need'.

Performance

Lead Work Figures 14/15:

- 725 Young People have received lead work support.
- 38% of these young people have demonstrated progress using a distance measured tool during this time period.

NEET figures 14/15:

- The July snapshot shows that 7.2% of young people are NEET in Swansea which is 1% lower than the figure last year. The snapshot in November at official snapshot was 5.8%
- Young People Service Lead workers are currently supporting 88 of the 163 Tier 2 NEET Young People

Open Access/ Youth Club Developments

A key decision was taken not to close the satellite youth club provision in the required budget saving proposals for 2015/16. The decision was reversed after listening carefully to the views of young people and key stakeholders.

The performance data for the youth clubs demonstrates that there is a strong strategic link between the development of the lead work role and the open access provision. A further restructure is being explored to see how the existing model can be refined, whilst retaining the key parts of the provision. This includes an **upcoming decision** for a potential Transformation Fund bid and model change for some youth clubs with a 3rd sector partner.

Performance 14/15:

2816 Young People have accessed a youth club.

Information and Targeted Services for Young People

A key decision has been taken to support the restructure of the Info-nation service. This will see the service transform into a Targeted and Specialist Services which is best equipped to meet the specific adolescent risks that face young people, their families and lead workers. This includes enhanced support for Domestic Abuse which is one of the LSB Priorities.

Key roles will directly support work around:

Domestic Abuse

Sexual Health

Digital Engagement

Outdoor Learning

Targeted Learning Opportunities

Tier 1 Outreach Work (Unknown NEETS)

There is further exploration of the potential of key services for young people to co-locate in the city centre, providing a more sustainable and accessible service for the future and a continued open access presence.

Performance 14/15:

3329 Young People accessed targeted support from Info-nation.

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has continued to perform well in Swansea.

Performance 14/15:

897 new starts for the award (the highest figure achieved by Swansea)

343 completed an Award

Outdoor Activity Centres

Key decisions have been taken to consult and implement a new pricing structure, transport reductions and other general efficiencies. This has continued to ensure that all three centres have continued to run and that Swansea School pupils pay a subsidised rate with those on Free School Meals receiving an even higher rate of subsidy.

There is an **impending decision for Cabinet** about the preferred future model for the service. This will be presented as a Gateway report as part of the Commissioning Strand and process for the Sustainable Swansea Programme.

Performance:

58 Swansea Schools attended the residential package

1796 Swansea School Pupils attended a residential experience

27% of those pupils were on Free School Meals

Participation of Children and young people

Local authorities have a duty to promote and facilitate the participation of children and young people in decisions that might affect them. The legal basis for this duty is Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, and requires '*local authorities to make such arrangements as they consider suitable to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them, and to publish and keep up to date information about its arrangements*'.

The Big Conversation is the term associated with the mechanisms co-ordinated by the City and County of Swansea Children's Rights Officers within the Partnership Performance and Commissioning Team to discharge this duty, via which children and young people in Swansea can exercise their right to voice in decisions that affect them.

The Big Conversation mechanisms aim to offer an inclusive framework that facilitates the widest possible participation of children and young people, by providing:

- Opportunities to inform service delivery through consultation;
- Opportunities to initiate agendas through philosophical enquiry;
- Opportunities to be supported by an advocate/ or on an individual level to have their voice heard;

- Opportunities to access online mechanisms, e.g. a CYP Super Survey which covers a multitude of subject areas and themes;
- Opportunities to engage through pupil voice and through the Rights Respecting Schools Award Framework.

The aims are to:

- Offer a more inclusive 'forum' infrastructure for young people in Swansea;
- Offer meaningful opportunities for young people to say what matters to them;
- Provide spaces where young people feel safe to explore different aspects of their lives with their peers;
- Support young people to become more self-aware of their lives, the lives of others and how the decisions they and others make impact on them;
- Where appropriate support young people to explore these issues with decision makers.

The following themes will be considered by young people in Swansea during Big Conversations in 2015 -16:

- Housing and homelessness;
- The changing nature of youth work and services for young people (and their families) in Swansea
- Impact of the implementation of the CYP Rights Scheme including RRSA;
- Domestic abuse and healthy relationships;
- Anti-Bullying
- Sustainable Swansea and allocation of resources in Swansea during budget decision making periods.

These are themes that have been set by young people through feedback from previous Big Conversation's and through emerging data derived from the CYP Super Survey.