Key Developments within WBAS

- Development and implementation of a twin-tracking process; this will be in operation from the 1st May 2019. This will see a referral planning meeting being held immediately following the referral to adoption. This meeting will consider any additional support needs of the child, sibling attachment issues, plan life-journey work and agree the timescale for the child. Identifying early support needs that a child may have will enable the family finding process to be more efficient.

- WBAS supporting more regular CARB training for social workers improving the quality of the information known about the child's needs.

- Improved Timescales for assessing potential adopters has improved to 7.1 months. Adopter's assessments will be developed further in line with the 2-stage process. Enquiries into the service have increased through the development of the WBAS website and through the service working closely with Cowshed (Marketing Company). WBAS are working with the Adopting Together Project (St David's) targeting recruitment of specific adopters. The service is also broadening its recruitment strategy to consider targeted recruitment of adopters who can manage more complex placements and siblings groups.

- Where children with additional needs are placed with WBAS adopters, adoption support workers are able to provide additional support to placement from an early stage. The proposed Psychological and therapeutic support to the adoption support team will enable staff to be upskilled to manage more complex pieces of work.

- From the 1st April, the service now registers children subject to Placement Orders on the National Register within 4 weeks of the order being granted in line with the regulations.

- Continued support and implementation of the life-journey framework and transition arrangements. This enables children to move on to their new families being better prepared and having a better understanding of their own life-story. Adopters have also received training in respect of both frameworks.

- Monthly linking meetings are now established in the service to consider all adopters approved or going through the assessment process, this meeting will also consider information from in respect of adopters from other LA's. From May 2109, WBAS will hold twice yearly profiling events.

- Adoption Panels are being far more robust in their consideration of matching. A checklist for panel members has been established which considers information such as life-journey materials, the transition plan for the child, letterbox arrangements, the child's support plan and adopters support needs.

	Bridgend	NPT	Swansea	WBAS
CHILDREN				
1. Number of Children Referred				
Monthly	0	3	6	**9**
Year to Date	37	38	77	**152**
2016/17 year end data	39	51	97	**187**
2. Number of PO Granted				
Monthly	0	0	2	**2**
Year to Date	23	17	52	**92**
2016/17 year end data	22	26	20	**68**
3. Number of children matched				
Monthly	0	0	2	**2**
Year to Date	22	11	27	**60**
2017/18 year end data	26	23	28	**77**
4. Number of Children Placed				
Monthly	2	0	1	**3**
Year to Date	26	11	27	**64**
2017/18 year end data	24	22	28	**74**
5. Number of Children waiting to be Matched (family finding)				
Current	28	26	40	**94**
Potential Links identified	1	3	9	**13**
Potential Matches identified	9	8	13	**30**
Still searching	9	14	15	**38**
Consideration being given to change of plan	9	1	3	**13**
6. Number of AOG				
Monthly	3	2	1	**6**
Year to Date	22	15	27	**64**
2017/18 year end data	28	28	34	**90**
7. Number of Children in Adoptive P'ment where AOG not yet granted				
Monthly	22	7	18	**47**
2017/18 year end data	22	12	21	**55**
8. Number of Children placed outside of region				
Monthly	1	0	1	**2**
Year to date	7	1	8	**16**
2017/18 year end data	5	10	12	**27**
9. Number of Children Placed with WBAS Adopters				

Monthly	1	0	0	**1**
Year to Date	19	10	19	**48**
2017/18 year end data	19	12	16	**47**
10. Number of Placement Breakdowns(post AOG) & Disruptions (pre AOG)				
Monthly disruptions	0	0	0	**0**
year to Date	0	0	1	**1**
Disruption meetin held	0	0	0	**0**
Monthly breakdowns	1	0	0	**1**
Year to Date	0	0	0	**0**
2017/18 year end data	0	0	0	**0**
	0	0	0	**0**
ADOPTERS				
11. Number of Enquiries				
Monthly				**9**
Year to Date				**123**
2017/18 year end data				**118**
12. Number of Prospective Adopters going through assessment process				
Current				**47**
13. Number of Adopters Approved				
Monthly				**4**
Year to Date				**28**
2017/18 year end data				**46**
14. Number of Potential Placements Generated				
Monthly				**5**
Year to Date				**29**
2017/18 year end data				**46**
15. Number of Adopters where Income has been generated				
Monthly				**0**
Year to Date				**5**
2017/18 year end data				**2**
16. Number of children with evidence of Life Story books (>3 and direct work materials <3) at panel				
Number of children presented	0	1	3	**4**
Evidence provided of LSB	0	0	2	**2**
Evidence of direct work	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

How do IRO's offer challenge to the systems and support family reunification

IRO offer challenge to the system:-

- Through the dispute resolution process and options to seek independent legal advice.
- Through the Permanence Panel and DAAP process.
- Through supervision with manager
- Through the QAMF IRO complete and the recommendations where the managers need to agree within 5 working days.

Support family reunification:-

- As a team we hold reviews every 3 months where young people are in residential placement to drive plans forward, and where needed in other cases we will also hold reviews sooner to drive reunification.
- Hold mid-point monitoring meeting with the social worker to look at whether the recommendations and the care plan is being achieved and continues to be right for that child.
- Through scrutinising the care and support plan to help develop a trajectory within LAC reviews
- Through LAC reviews and pathway plan reviews, we look at the individual needs of the child/young person and what services and support they require to identify services and support to keep them safe at home.
- IRO visit child/young person to seek their views and personal goals
- IRO advocate for discussion within reviews to look at lifelong connected people and exploring who can support the family at home.
- Advocate that therapy is offered including MAPPs in order to support reunification and relationships building.

What practices do you support to promote independence?

Strategic

- We are in the process of developing the independence living skills work group as part of one of our priorities practice development work group under the hidden ambitions report.

- Currently our supported lodgings providers use the outcome star to assist in measuring young people's independence living skills development and this falls in line with supporting people's outcomes framework. We operate the supported lodgings service within the Barnardos accommodation team.

- The innovation fund application that we have just submitted to WG specifically focuses on providing an outreach service for 15+, which looks to develop independent living skills via two types of intervention. The first is providing group work and direct 1:1 support around skill development for our 15 -18 year olds (this will include skills such as cooking, cleaning budgeting). The second part focuses on the training flat provisions which will focus on providing a real experience of living independently with wrap around support to enable the young person to experience a taste of living independently and an opportunity to assess their skills out and identify where they need to develop.

- We have strategic and operational SAP (Swansea Accommodation Pathway) – this promotes effective multiagency working with all accommodation providers for our 16+ (including looked after young people and care leavers). It acts as a single point of entry for the young person to identify suitable and appropriate semi-independent and independent provisions for them when leaving care.

- Roll out the moving forward qualification. Ty Nant (internal provision) use modules and independent providers are encouraged to use this for Swansea young people placed with them.

Operational

Operational support provided by 16+

Practices that support promoting independence

- A stable team with a good skills set for direct work in this area

- Generally, we utilise the support of ESS, SHYSP etc. for outreach through the prevention fund in more complex cases.

- Within the transfer protocol, we have embedded a pathway assessment into business, which was not previously the norm (although statutorily required) and under new closure meetings, we have an opportunity to identify cases closing which require an updated pathway or transition assessment. This ensures safe closure and proper handover / update of the ILS assessment as required.

Operational support provided by the Barnardos personal advisory service

Practices that promoting independence?

Primarily through direct work based on need. Includes:

- Advocating on behalf of young people – ensuring that their voices/views are heard and can be acted upon.
- Supporting young people to attend initial appointments with a range of services with a view to them developing the confidence to attend appointments on their own. This may include appointments with DWP, GP/Hospital appointments, mental health support groups
- Use of public transport with young person.
- Encouraging young people to make their own telephone calls to services, PA present and able to assist if needed, financial capability
- Advice and guidance around making informed choices. Signposting and referring young people to support services. This would cover a range of issues including budgeting, substance misuse, and relationships.
- Roll out the moving

How PA's offer challenge to the system and support family reunification?

The PA service will be looking to develop this approach through accepted processes such as the introduction of the 3 month closure period.

They currently

- Advocate on behalf of young people and helping them to voice their wishes and feelings during pathway planning, specifically through the use of 'My Statement'.
- Challenges usually through management to decisions made about cases and practice
- PA service is independent from LA as we are voluntary sector so allows for challenge (best practice is for PA service to be independent)
- PA seen by young person and family as independent from Social Services and as such the family may be more willing to work with/hear the views of the PA.

The Homelessness prevention service also strongly promotes young people staying within their family which avoids escalating to CASP and possibly becoming accommodated and the qualifying for care leaver status.

What QA procedures are in place?

In Swansea we have developed a quality assurance framework across the service. This Quality Assurance and Learning Framework brings together both **quality control** activities- measurement against standards and where these have not been met; and **quality assurance** activities. The aim of the Quality Assurance and Learning Framework is to develop a culture of working with children and families that is efficient, effective and outcome based and where a consistent, responsive and high quality service is a shared goal at all levels of the system.

There are a number of auditing activities that happen across the service and include weekly and monthly activities involving a wide range of staff and in some cases multi agency partners as well. The activities include -

a) Monthly case file audits undertaken by Hub and Team Managers across the service, including Fostering and Friends and Family.
b) Weekly referral review meetings held within the IIAA
c) Weekly Child Protection Threshold and outcome audit, chaired by The Principal Officer for Safeguarding
d) Weekly Quality Assurance audit by the manager and assistant manager of the Service Quality Unit of LAC process through the Quality Assurance Monitoring Form which is completed by the IRO at the end of each LAC review
e) Monthly Performance Report that is discussed in the Senior Management monthly meeting Head of Service, Principal Officers and Team/ Hub Managers
f) Presentation at Cabinet Scrutiny of Monthly Performance Report

Themes of learning from each of these activates are going to be correlated alongside the data performance report to identify good practice, learning and key themes to support and underpin the improvement plan and the direction of work that we undertake.

It is important to note that within this framework we ensure that part of auditing involves seeking the citizen's feedback. i.e. the child and the parent(s)/ carer(s). That these form part of the overall feedback and reflection on what's working well, what we are worried about and what actions we need to undertake.