



**Children & Young People Services
Service Plan Mid-Year Review 2019-20**

Cabinet Member for Social Services – Councillor Paul Cockeram

Head of Service – Sally Ann Jenkins

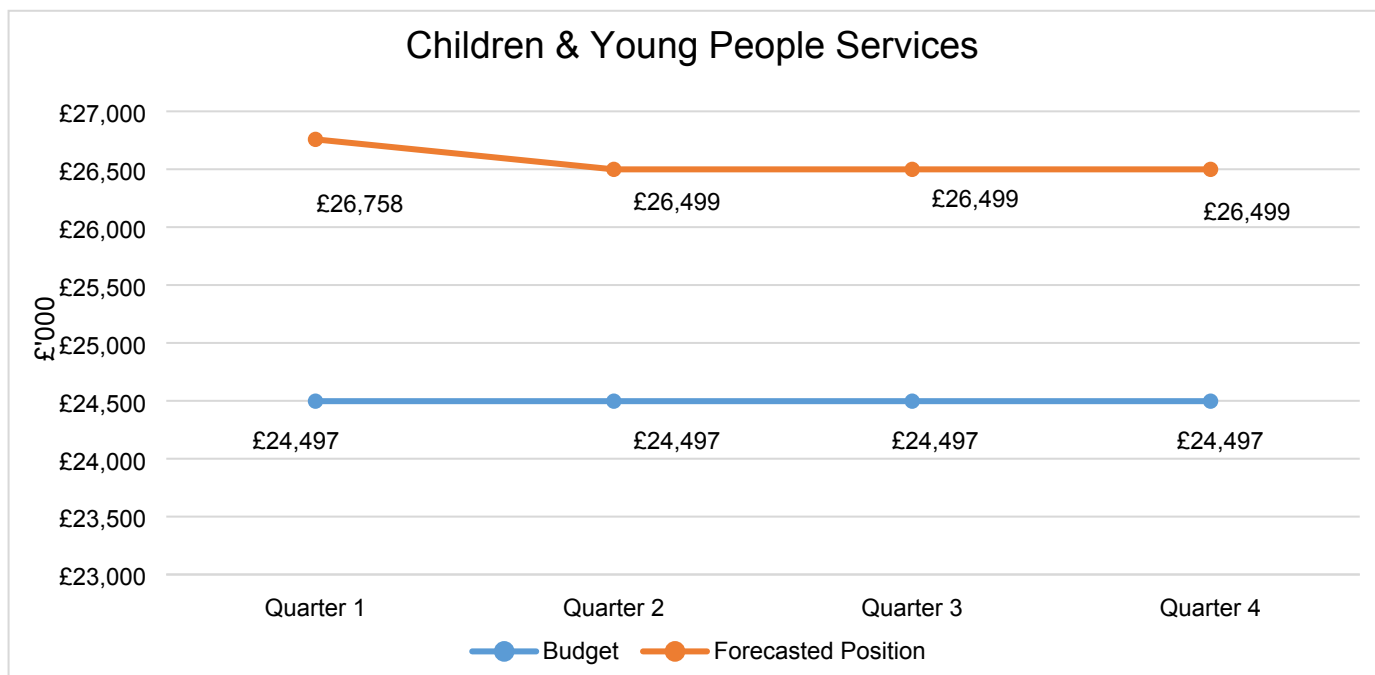
Introduction

Children & Young People Services purpose is “*To promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people within their families and where this is not possible, to provide good quality alternative care*”.

Our emphasis on preventative services alongside support for families to explore their strengths and meet the needs of their children is crucial in meeting this first outcome. Secondly when children are in our care and leave our care we must do everything to support them to ensure positive outcomes. Children and families deserve services that are truly holistic and recognise the multifaceted nature of families lives. In order to ensure we can work to meet this need partnership underpins our service. We work with families and a broad range of agencies to meet our stated outcomes and to offer the best possible services.

Children & Young People Services provides a range of services to families and children in need including specialist provision for those most vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion, such as those at risk of significant harm, disabled children, children looked after and unaccompanied (separated) children and young people.

2019/20 Budget



To support the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2017-22, the Children and Young People Services Service Plan 2018-22 focuses on the delivery of:

Wellbeing Objective 3 - To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient

Wellbeing Objective 4 - To build cohesive and sustainable communities

Corporate Theme – Aspirational People

Corporate Theme – Resilient Communities

The 2019/20 Service Plan has identified 4 objectives that are focused on:

Objective 1 – Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families.

Prevention and early intervention are key drivers in the Social Services Wellbeing Act (SSWA). Working with families with a strengths based model is an integral part of working in partnership with families to achieve their goals and ensure they build the resilience to support their children safely and meet their aspirations without access to specialist services. Focussing on these services is key to ensuring as few children as possible come into care and is integral to the overall work of reducing our looked after children numbers.

Objective 2 – Improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers including a focus on safe reunification.

Children who become looked after and care leavers will have experienced significant early disadvantage and trauma. As children who are looked after they should benefit from corporate parenting which ensures they have access to good quality services to improve their life choices and ensure they are able to fulfil their potential. The key areas of home lives, education, health, leisure activities and transition to adulthood must be part of the corporate parenting agenda. As part of this objective supporting reunification where safe is an imperative.

For care leavers Hidden Ambitions published by the Children's Commissioner will underpin the actions.

Objective 3 – Ensure a range of placements are available for looked after children.

Newport has a mix of in house residential services and externally commissioned services. Newport is in a very different position to most local authorities as it has 3 residential homes and 1 short breaks facility for children with disabilities. Even though Newport has in house residential resources and a good range of fostering placements there has been a need to also commission external residential and fostering provision. These placements are for a mix of children who have complex and challenging behaviours, risky behaviours and placements are children with significant disabilities. The dearth of placements has led to a very strong provider's market with generally poor outcomes for children.

This work under this objective seeks to expand the in house placement provision and improve the quality of the placement offer.

Objective 4 – Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.

The Youth Offending Service is a partnership across a range of services within the Council and more widely with other agencies. The provision is laid out as key to preventing offending and re-offending by children and young people. The service offers a range of interventions and delivers against the requirements of the Youth Justice Board and the criminal justice system.

The service manager for YOS and the Head of Children's Services with the Local Management Board are responsible for the delivery of the plan.

Executive Summary from the Head of Service

Children's Services continues to deliver the full range of statutory services required. The first six months of the year has been a busy and productive period.

Staffing across Children's Services continues to be reasonably settled. The service has no agency social workers and is able to fill vacancies at all levels of fieldwork. There are some issues in recruiting residential care staff but vacancies have been filled and there is a positive strategy in place to emphasise the strengths of working in residential care in Newport.

The workload across all teams continues to bring daily challenges. The number of referrals is high with no sign of diminution. The complexity of many of the issues faced by families does require constant learning and creativity. Supporting families with complex immigration challenges is one such dilemma. However, teams are managing to support families and children who are looked after with positive care and effective interventions. The numbers of children becoming looked after has slowed and the number of cases being taken to court has fallen.

Family Group Conferencing has begun to be embedded with good take up and some strong indications of good outcomes for families with robust packages of support resulting from the Conferences. Baby and Me has now launched against a backdrop of improved National data about the impact of removing newborns from family care.

The work within the Welsh Government strategy to reduce the number of looked after children continues. Further visits from Welsh Government officials will take place over the winter.

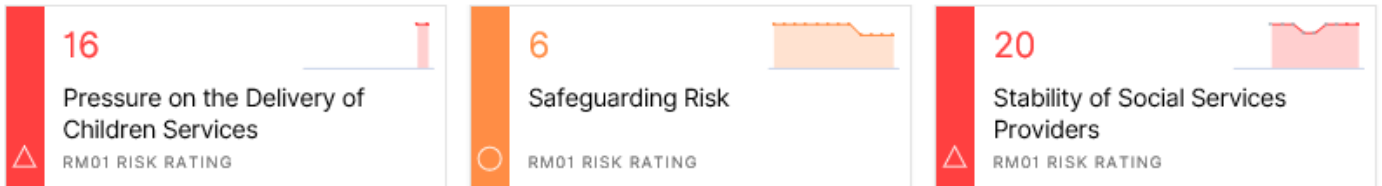
The fostering recruitment strategy has been agreed and work is developing to ensure the offer to foster carers is fair and comparable with other providers. Rose Cottage has blossomed and the children are thriving. All children currently in Local Authority residential care are accessing education. Oaklands redevelopment has been completed and reopened in July. The new provision has been welcomed by parents and enjoyed by children.

The Youth Justice Service is developing earlier interventions and has extended work with children to the period after statutory orders are completed. For children in Newport there has not been a single episode of custody for 10 months.

Children's Services led on a review by the Welsh Audit Office for corporate safeguarding arrangements. The Welsh Audit Office is currently examining the work to reduce the number of out of authority residential placements.

Over the coming six months the biggest single challenge will be the Joint Inspection of Child Protection arrangements scheduled for the week commencing the 2nd of December. This is a pilot of a model used in England with all the Inspectorates visiting together and undertaking a joint approach to a theme. For this inspection the theme will be exploitation.

Service Risks



Glossary

Note – Commentary is optional for actions and performance measures reported as green.

Actions (Red / Amber / Green)

C	Action Complete (Commentary provided is optional)
	Action is on target to complete by agreed timescale (Commentary provided is optional)
	Issues are identified which could impact on the delivery of the action by the agreed timescale
	The action is not going to be able to deliver by agreed timescale and immediate action is required.
?	Update has not been provided for Q2.

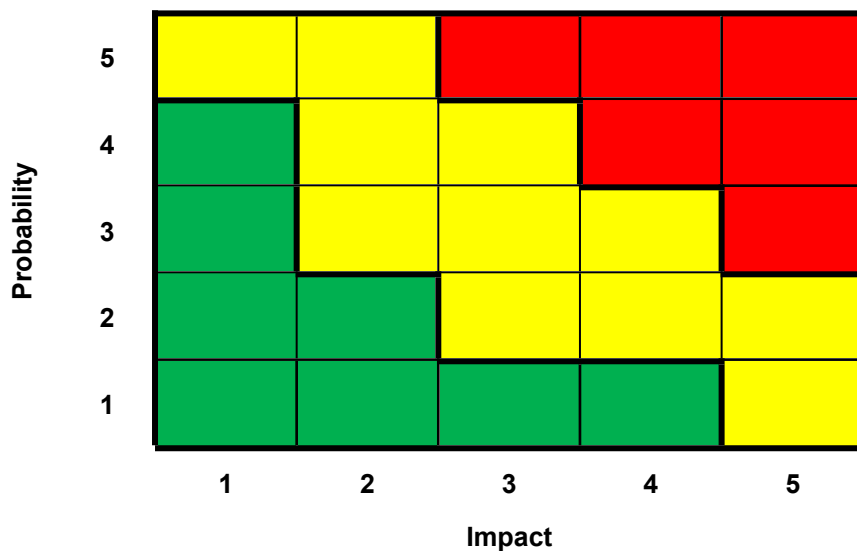
Performance Measures

	Green – Performance is above Target
	Amber RAG – Performance is below Target (0-15%)
	Red RAG – Performance is Under achieving (+15%)
?	Unknown RAG (Data missing)

Service Risks

Risk Table (5x5)

For example: Probability = 5 / Impact = 4 / Total = 20



1. Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
1	Develop a Service for Unborns to Support Families	Develop a service for unborns to support families from early in pregnancy where there is a high risk of the need for statutory intervention.	01-Apr-19	30-Apr-20	81%		Progress is on target.
2	Develop Criteria for Service to Promote Earlier Access to Interventions	Work with the DCT to develop a common understanding of criteria for service and to promote earlier access to interventions	01-Apr-19	10-Oct-19	100%	C	
3	Embed the EIP Workers Within Preventions Team	Embed the EIP workers within Preventions Team alongside the developments for SPACE and FIT.	01-Apr-19	19-Sep-19	100%	C	This work has been completed. All staff in post and the service continues to be developed as we learn from current service demands.
4	Implement Hub	In light of the review of the Hub and the CIW feedback lead on the agreed final implementation of the Hub and the drawing together of all processes and structures.	01-Apr-19	10-Oct-19	100%	C	
5	Implement WG Action Plan for Reducing LAC Numbers	Completion and implementation of Welsh Government action plan to work towards reducing the numbers of looked after children	15-May-19	31-Mar-20	50%		The first monitoring report is due on the 8 th November 2019.
6	Improve Approaches Pre-Proceedings, PLO, and Legal Meetings	Work with colleagues in legal services to develop an agreed set of checklists to improve shared approaches to pre proceedings, PLO, and legal meetings.	01-Apr-19	31-Dec-19	56%		In light of the inspection the completion date for this action will be pushed back to the end of the financial year, 31 st March 2020.
7	Provide Effective Hands On Family Support	Establish provision based on existing family support to	01-Jun-19	30-Jun-20	60%		

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
		provide an effective "hands on" support where neglect is a key presenting family issue.					
8	Rollout Family Group Conferencing	Rollout Family Group Conferencing across Children's Services	01-Apr-19	05-Sep-19	95%		

2. Improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers including a focus on safe reunification

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
1	Develop Options for NCC Work Experience, Tasters & Mentoring	Work with Pathways and OD to develop a range of options for NCC work experience, tasters and mentoring.	01-May-19	31-Mar-20	50%		A mentoring programme is currently being developed across Childrens Services.
2	Increase Awareness of Members and Senior Officers of their Statutory Roles	Build on the first year of a reinvigorated Corporate Parenting Forum to increase awareness of Members and Senior Officers of their statutory roles.	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-20	50%		
3	Restructure Pathways Team to Improve Personal Advisors for Care Leavers	With Pathway TMs restructure to improve the Personal Advisors offer for all care leavers	01-Apr-19	10-Oct-19	100%	C	

3. Ensure a range of placements are available for looked after children

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
1	Continue Development of Residential Provision	Continue with the development of the residential provision (including Windmill Farm) across Newport in order to increase the number of children who can be cared for safely in Newport	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-20	30%		<p>Awaiting cabinet report sign off for Rosedale- once signed off property can be purchased, business case for staffing will be requested, children to be identified with education to move and proposed opening for April 2020.</p> <p>Capital and operational groups in place for Windmill Farm. Windmill Farm- Norse taking to planning before January 2020. Joint work with Health as they will be paying revenue costs. ICF funding has been agreed. Health on board. This will be for regional placements.</p>
2	Re-establish the Short Breaks Service at Oaklands	Re-establish the short breaks service at Oaklands and scope the possibility of developing an ongoing domiciliary care service for children	01-Apr-19	30-Sep-19	100%	C	
3	Restructure the Fostering & MAPS Teams	Complete the restructuring of the fostering and MAPS teams into a single Fostering and Placement support team	01-Apr-19	30-Sep-19	100%	C	
4	Setup Family & Friends Team	Set up Family and Friends team to develop a robust offer of support for family and friend carers from assessment through to placement	01-Apr-19	30-Sep-19	100%	C	

4. Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
1	Adopt HMI Probation YOS Standards	Adopt HMI Probation YOS Standards across the service	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-20	69%		Work continues to progress with adopting the new National Standards. Current focus is identifying local standards, supported with appropriate evidence. A self-assessment exercise is also required during the period Sept 19 - March 20, with a final report being submitted in April 20. Fortnightly manager meetings are arranged to support this piece of work.
2	Build on Contextual Safeguarding Research	Build on Contextual Safeguarding research, and embed new approaches to understanding, and responding to young people's experiences of significant harm and exploitation.	01-Apr-19	31-Mar-20	63%		This remains a topic of conversation across the department and in discussions with colleagues. Exploring opportunities the Youth Endowment Fund offers Newport to further progress this. The upcoming joint inspection is focused on exploitation.
3	Establish Local Partnership Pathways	Establish clear local partnership pathways to support early intervention and prevention work	01-Apr-19	31-Dec-19	25%		This work has not been developed as much I would like to have seen. The lead for this is the Team Manager and has not been able to progress. A new structure is now in place to reallocate aspects of the work to other staff, allowing increased capacity

Action No.	Action Title	Action Description	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	RAG Status	Commentary
							to develop the Preventative pathways with partners.
4	Refocus the Strategic Partnership Board	Refocus the newly established Strategic Partnership Board to lead strategically and be Inspection Ready	01-Apr-19	31-Jan-20	80%		

Performance Measures at end of Quarter 2 2019/20

Performance Measure	Q2 Figure (or latest) 2019/20	Target 2019/20 (Q2 Target 2019/20)	Performance	Previous Year (Actual) Q2 2018/19	Comments
National - % Assessments Completed for Children Within Statutory Timescales.	90.4%	95%		89.1%	As part of the upcoming inspection the front door of children services will be examined. There is a current piece of work to audit case work which will include assessments.
National - % Children Supported to Remain Living with their Family	58.2%	65%		48.8%	This is a measure that is unlikely to remain as part of the new performance framework that will be coming in 2020/21.
National - % Looked after Children (LAC) Returned Home from Care	9.2%	13%		8.3%	This is measure that is unlikely to remain as part of the new performance framework that will be coming in 2020/21.
National - % Re-registrations of Children on Local Authority Children Protection Registers	1.1%	5%		3.8%	
National - Average Length of Time Children who were on Child Protection Register during the year	228 days	230 days		260 days	
National - % Looked after Children (LAC) who have had 3 or more Placements	13.7%	9%		8%	The strategy for NCC to return Children back to Newport does mean that there has been some flux in reaching a settled point for children. We continue to struggle with immediate suitable foster placements for sibling groups that can lead to step placements. There is also considerable work within children services on both fostering and residential care to stabilise care.
National - % Care Leavers in Education, Training or Employment at 12 Months	21.2%	50%		44.7%	The local authority has developed this year a positive model of work experience for care leavers. The increase in accompanied asylum seekers has also impacted on this figure this year.
National - % Care Leavers in Education, Training or Employment at 24 Months	50%	50%		54.1%	

Local - Number of Looked after Children (LAC)	386	375		365	We have a continued increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children. In addition we have had 3 large sibling groups of children who had to be brought into care.
Local - Number of Children on Child Protection Register	123	110		130	There is a challenge of working with children at risk of exploitation continues to oppose some stresses on the service.
Local - Number of Children Subject to Interim Care Orders	52	50		No data	The rate of court work continues to be high in Newport. The pattern of increasing children on ICO is similar to the Welsh average.
Local (Youth Offending Service) - % of young people in suitable accommodation at the end of a statutory order.	94.7%	80%		86.5%	
Local (Youth Offending Service) – Average 'Post 16' Hours at End of Intervention	16.4 Hours	15 Hours		Not Available	
Local (Youth Offending Service) - Average number of hours 'School Age' children attend at the end of an Intervention.	16.8 Hours	25 Hours		16.5hrs	There is work across agencies to understand the risk of reduced timetabling and thus develop alternative provision.
Local (Youth Offending Service) - Total Number of new cases at Start of Intervention	76	N/A	N/A	Not Available	
Local (Youth Offending Service) - Total Number of First Time Entrants	12	40 (20)		Not Available	