

Children & Young People Services

Mid Year Review 21/22



Cabinet Member for Social Service – Councillor Paul Cockeram
Director of Social Services – Sally Ann Jenkins

Introduction

This is the Children & Young People Services update on the progress being made against the objectives, actions, performance and risk for the period 1st April 2020 to 30th September 2021. Service plans have been designed to support the delivery of the [Council's Corporate Plan 2017-22](#). As one of the 44 public bodies, Newport Council must consider the Well-being of Future Generations Act in the delivery of its plans and the sustainable development principle of meeting our duty under the Act.

Long term		The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
Prevention		How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives.
Integration		Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
Collaboration		Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.
Involvement		The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area, which the body serves.

The Children & Young People Services service plan focuses on the delivery of the following Wellbeing Objective(s) in the Corporate Plan:

- **Wellbeing Objective 3** – To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient; and
- **Strategic Recovery 3** – Promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people, safeguarding our most vulnerable and building strong, resilient communities.

The 2021/22 Service Plan has five 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 children are safe and happy and is integral to the overall work of safely 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 Justice Service (YJS) 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 YJS and the Head of Children's Services with the Local Management Board are responsible for the delivery of the plan.

Cabinet Member(s) / Head of Service Executive Summary

The first six months of 21/22 has been dominated by the continuing challenges from the pandemic. Much of the work of Children's Services is back to pre-pandemic functioning and indeed there are large areas of positive innovative services delivery. However, the losses for families, the challenges for children, young people and adults and the inexorable pressure of the past 20 months on staff are all impacting on the services delivered.

As in the latter part of 20/21 the first six months has seen a relentless increase in the number of referrals being made and the number of referrals where families require ongoing services. This increase is reflected in the data in this report. In addition to the quantitative increases there has also been a step change in the complexity of cases. Families who would previously have been referred earlier are coming to Children's Services much later and hence the degree of distress and need for support is greater. Staff have continued to work tirelessly to support families and to ensure distress and risk is as far as possible safely managed with support, advice and appropriate services.

An assurance check with Care Inspectorate Wales in May 2021 was positive and while there are continued areas for development the services are delivering effectively and safely. The following are observations from the Inspectorate feedback

- "In children's services we found an early intervention model through which children can access a range of services supported by the Space Well-being Panel which comprised a wide range of statutory and third sector organisations."
- "Staff have a shared commitment to work effectively with families within the constraints of the pandemic."
- "We received positive feedback from care leavers who were highly complimentary about personal advisors (PAs). They said it was important to be listened to and their voices heard."

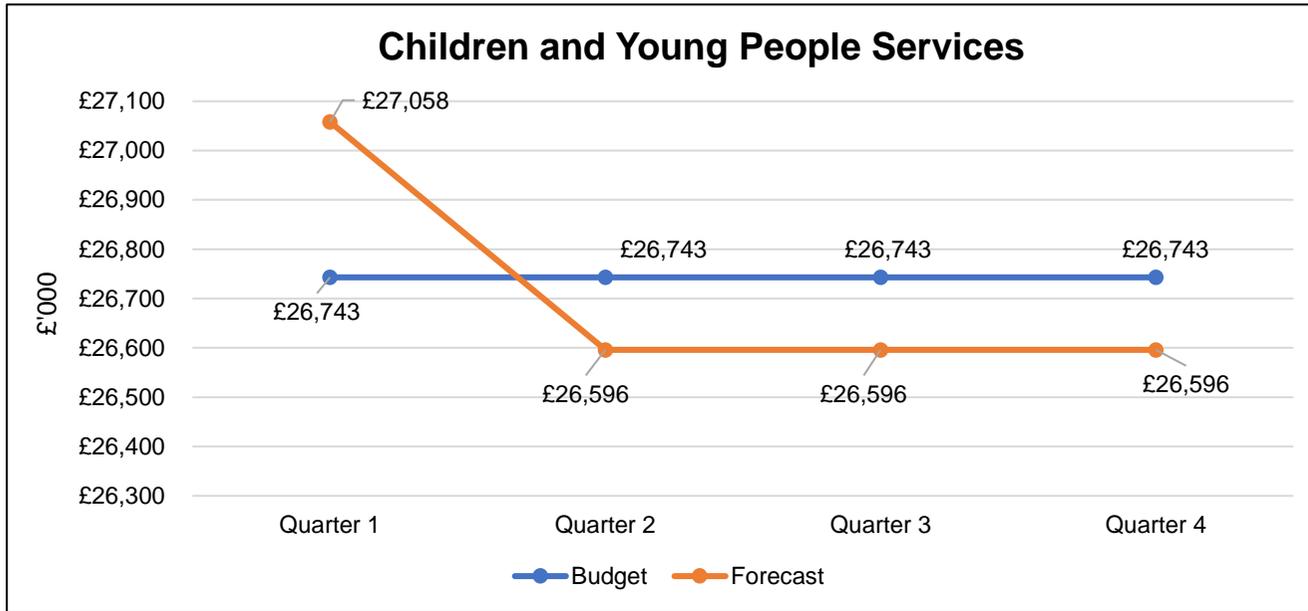
Maethu Cymru/Foster Wales was launched across Wales as a drive to increase the number of foster carers in Local Authorities and to ensure the quality of care. Foster carers and staff from Newport have been involved throughout the campaign including at the launch at the Senedd and with a prodigious output across social media. In residential care the work at Windmill Farm is well underway while agreement for the appointment of staff is in place and the manager has already been offered the post.

There are a number of developments happening across all teams. Below are some examples of positive developments

- Our Disabled Children's Team ran a series of sessions over the summer and again in October half term focussing on different sorts of experiences for some of the most vulnerable children we support. The feedback from children and families has been overwhelmingly positive.
- The Family and Friends team has established a support group specifically for kinship carers. The group has been well attended and carers are finding the shared support hugely beneficial.
- A football event run by the Youth Justice Service was a tremendous success with a broad range of teams and some fantastic healthy competition.
- Working with partner agencies and Cardiff City Council our staff have been supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children arriving through the National Transfer Scheme. This work will continue throughout 2021/22.
- In the Safeguarding Hub the Rapid Response team continues to work effectively with families to avoid crises and support families intensively as early as possible

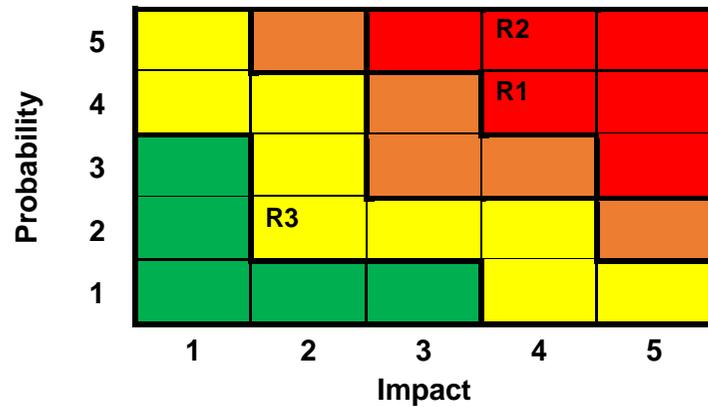
For the second half of the year Children's Services staff will continue to work to deliver effective core services. Realistically much of our focus for the rest of the year will be on addressing the challenges of recruitment and the demand for services. However, we will endeavour to ensure we develop positive innovative elements of service and make constructive changes for the future.

Children & Young People Services – Mid Year Forecast Vs 2021/22 Budget



This provides an overview of the 'Service Area' forecasted position to the end of quarter 2 (April to September 2021).

Service Area Risks at 30th September 2021



Service Area Risk Heat Map Key (Quarter 2 2021/22)	
R1 – Family Court Cases	R2 – Pressure on the delivery of Children Services
R3 – Safeguarding Risk	

Glossary

Actions (Red / Amber / Green)

C	Green RAG – Completed
%	Green RAG – Action is on course to be completed within timescale
%	Amber RAG – There are potential issues which unless addressed the action might not be achieved within agreed timescales.
%	Red RAG – The action requires immediate action to achieve delivery within agreed timescales.
?	Unknown RAG (Data missing)

Programmes and Projects

This provides an update on the delivery of key programmes and projects that contribute towards the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2017-22. This covers the progress of delivery from 1st April to 30th September 2021.

Programme / Project Title	Brief Programme / Project Overview	Anticipated Programme / Project Completion Date	% of Project Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Commentary
Residential Children's Homes	Increase the number of placements for children available in residential care in Newport by developing LA provision. In so doing children can be cared for locally and are more able to develop resilience and sustain their local connections. Ensuring we are aspirational in the care of our children is part of this ambition as well as promoting the best use of our resources. This links with regional developments and assists in providing support for children with the highest levels of vulnerability. The planned developments for the coming year are Rosedale home which is opening in March 2021, the proposals to develop	Quarter 4 2022/23	65%	Work is underway at Windmill Farm. The building is not yet completed, and the likely completion is January 2022. The home will need to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales and this is likely to be completed by May 2022.

Programme / Project Title	Brief Programme / Project Overview	Anticipated Programme / Project Completion Date	% of Project Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Commentary
	the annexes at Rosedale and Windmill Farm.			
Review of existing Children's Homes	This project is a further development to improve the in- house residential offer and ensure all provision is of suitable quality and offers care of the highest standard.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	90%	Cambridge House has shut as it was no longer fit for purpose. Work is underway to increase emergency provision in residential with Rosedale Annexes and Windmill Farm
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	Newport and Cardiff LA's have agreed to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from the National Transfer Scheme. We have the infrastructure to support these children/young people. In order to manage this process a team is being developed and consultation with stakeholders has commenced. There will be a need for a corporate strategy in response to meeting these children/young people's needs.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	50%	Children Services has successfully supported 8 young people since 26 th July 21. We continue to work in collaboration with Cardiff City Council and stakeholders to ensure that we build an adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of these vulnerable individuals.
Child Protection Processes	Following research undertaken by Barnardo's to review child protection processes and experiences in Newport a stakeholder group has been tasked with implementing the key learning outcomes to improve partnership approaches and outcomes for professionals and families helping support children to remain within their families where safe to do so.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	90%	CP processes are continuing to be embedded, Blended child protection conferences are in person in the Civic centre and working well. A quality assurance framework will conduct a survey for all participants by end of the year.
Rosedale Annexes	There is currently an ICF expression of interest regarding Rosedale annexes with WG. This project would require planning permission and project management. Additional annexes would enable NCC to have sufficient emergency care and also allow the selling of placements across Gwent.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	25%	Work has started on this project- although the final ministerial ICF letter is awaited. Plans are being developed and planning application is underway.

Programme / Project Title	Brief Programme / Project Overview	Anticipated Programme / Project Completion Date	% of Project Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Commentary
Proposed closure of Cambridge House	To ensure the on-going quality and provision of high-quality care. Cambridge House is no longer suitable for a children's home due to the location and state of repair.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	95%	CH is shut. The building is awaiting disposal- a BC has been done and is awaiting sign off if the building is not used by Housing associations.
Single Unified Safeguarding Review	Lead on Welsh Government and Home Office project to ensure Domestic Homicide Reviews enhance practitioner learning and combine with adult/child practice reviews. Produce a single repository in Wales for all learning outcomes.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	75%	Ongoing progress with the development of the SUSR for Wales. First ministerial meeting before Christmas 2021 and will be chaired by the First Minister. Wales repository for all child/adult and DHR reviews created and housed with Cardiff University. Working towards full completion of the policy and process by April 2022.
Regional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service	Outsource commissioning of the Regional IDVA service. Third sector consortia to manage and develop further the regional resource funded by VAWDASV Welsh Government grant and Police and Crime Commissioner Office.	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	75%	Completion of speculative tender. Consortium funding agreed with Welsh Government (VAWDASV Gwent grant) OPCC, MOJ and Local Authorities across Gwent. Move to full tendering process, for service to start in April 2022
Child Exploitation response model	Newport is one of the leading Local Authorities in Wales delivering a response to exploitation through the implementation of a multi-agency strategy meeting model and Exploitation Toolkit which has now extended to all 5 Gwent Local Authorities. Building on this multi-agency approach we have recruited an Exploitation Social Work to provide direct support to tackle exploitation and improve outcomes for children and young people	Quarter 4 2021 / 22	50%	The project continues to be seen as a model of good practice and we are part of a number of research groups addressing exploitation. We now have an exploitation social worker, and exploitation parenting worker and a virtual team dedicated to exploitation which has enabled several young people to remain at home, be safer in the community and improve partnership working. The focus is now to shift from the excellent work we have done to safeguard children to focus on the community and how we can address and reduce those risks.

Workforce Planning

To support the delivery of the Service Plan and Corporate Plan objectives, service areas in collaboration with the Council's Human Resources team have identified three key actions to improve the capacity and capability of its workforce in 2021/22

Action	Outcome(s) of Action	Action Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% of Action completed	Commentary
Review and update outdated job descriptions and to genericise some key roles (where possible)	Provide consistency of job roles and responsibilities across Children and Young People Services.	1 st April 2021	30 th June 2021	60%	The work continues across Social Services with input from key staff
Review the current recruitment strategy and implement new ways of advertising roles (including updated job adverts, social media and video adverts).	Working with HR and Senior Managers we will update current mechanisms to attract people to the service.	1 st April 2021	30 th September 2021	75%	The materials have been developed by HR and are now in use. Further steps are being taken e.g. job fair attendance and the use of social media.
Develop an expanded social work student scheme with consideration for the option of including support for the Open University route to social work qualification.	Work with training and Adult Services to review the existing course and consider expansion options.	1 st April 2021	30 th June 2021	80%	The group of staff to undertake the Open University training programme have been agreed and the scheme is fully agreed. Further steps are being explored in light of the staffing challenges across social care.

Objectives and Action Update (30th September 2021)

This is an update on the progress against service objectives and actions to the end of quarter 2 (30th September 2021).

Objective 1 - Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families						
Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
1	Completion and implementation of Welsh Government action plan to work towards reducing the numbers of looked after children.	The delivery of all the actions in this section will support Children Services objective to reduce the number of looked after children and enable effective early intervention and prevention.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	80%	Again the number of children who are looked after has reduced slightly. This is real progress against the backdrop of increasing referrals and pressures. The Rapid Response team and the services of MyST are beginning to generate positive outcomes in this area of work
2	Explore sustainability options for the Early Intervention Project within the Preventions Team for post March 2021.	Funding for the continuity of this partnership project has been secured for 21/22. Awaiting written confirmation of funding from Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	30%	This project still requires a sustainable resolution post April 2022. A partnership project between Preventions and the OPCC, the project continues to respond to a high level of PPN's submitted yet not progressed by the Safeguarding Hub. The team offers an early intervention and contact to support the family and make identified improvements. Discussions are open with the OPCC currently with the aim of securing sustainable funding to maintain the project.
3	Develop a rapid response provision at the front door of Children's Services utilising the skill set in existing provision.	The Rapid response service has now commenced within the safeguarding HUB and is supporting families at the earliest opportunity in an intense and immediate way through direct interventions aimed at helping keep families together. Reporting on outcomes is part of the model	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	90%	Ongoing development of the provision. Review of service ongoing.

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
		and this will be evaluated after the first years delivery.				
4	Work with the Pathway Service to support reunification of Children who are looked after (CLA) to family/friends.	The delivery of this action in will support Children Services objective to reduce the number of looked after children and enable effective early intervention and prevention. Introduction of Lifelong Links across Pathway	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	90%	The Pathway team have developed a Placement with Parents (PWP) reunification process which will enhance the development in this area.
5	Complete and deliver actions agreed in the post safeguarding joint inspection action plan	This action has been delayed by the pandemic and will be taken forward across a number of areas notably the development of the child exploitation protocol.	1 st April 2020	30 th September 2021	80%	The toolkit is being embedded. MACE is becoming an increasingly useful and informative forum for agencies to work together in line with the recommendations from the Joint Inspection Children Protection Arrangements (JICPA). The work of the exploitation social worker has been highly praised in court and she continues to develop a very valuable service.
6	The Public Law Working Group reform of Family Justice will be published in July 2020. Children's Services staff with legal colleagues will engage in the implementation strategy for the rollout of the changes	Publication was delayed until March 2021. This work will focus on Special Guardianship, Section 76, processes during the pre-proceedings period and Supervision Orders. Supporting children to safely remain with their families is the primary outcome with improved performance in the court arena as a secondary outcome.	30 th June 2020	31 st March 2022	80%	The implementation has been a little delayed because of some National delays in developing materials and training. However, in Newport the work has continued albeit slowly. There has been particular focus on work to improve support for SGO carers and address the risk of drift for Section 76 placements in line with the Public Law Working Group work.
7	To develop a sustainable model to deliver a consistent, coordinated, local and multi-agency response to all age	The delivery of all the actions in this section will support Children Services objective to reduce the number of looked after children and enable	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	90%	The model is evolving and under review by the early intervention and prevention board. The model is working successfully and the integrated approach is assisting with

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
	safeguarding, early intervention and prevention at the front door of CS. This work will involve the consideration of systems, processes and resources of partner agencies to develop a model that reflects contributions from key agencies.	effective early intervention and prevention.				ensuring that children and families are receiving a service in a more timely way.
8	Future direction of travel for Early Intervention and Prevention services to be considered with alternative models of delivery explored	A qualitative and consistent approach to early support services is achieved across all Newport communities, incorporating a high standard of safeguarding practice and improved outcomes for families and children.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2023	25%	A number of projects are currently being piloted within the Prevention Team to determine different ways of delivering the service in the face of consistent increasing demands on the team. A potential future reconfiguration of support service may also assist addressing demands once the senior management restructure is completed. One triage project is particularly evidencing good outcomes and we are capturing sophisticated data to analyse the impact of this on the Safeguarding Hub.
9	Pilot Project in the Llanwern cluster addressing school exclusions and its link to criminality and exploitation	To have local evidence to support a move towards system change and respond to children differently	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2023	30%	The Identifying the Triggers pilot project continues with a fresh relaunch with the new school year Sept 21. Documentation has now been established to assist shape the project including an ISP, with the forthcoming school term targeting 10 identified children from the enhanced early identification toolkit. This term we plan to focus on interventions and outcomes in readiness for a comprehensive evaluation

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
						to be undertaken in the summer of 2022.
10	National Referral Mechanism (NRM)	Newport has recently been successful in a bid to host local decision making for National Referral Mechanism cases where children are being trafficked and or exploited. This will enable local agencies that understand the needs of young people in Gwent to make decisions on their behalf and ensure they get the appropriate support in a timely way.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	50%	This Home Office funded project is now fully embedded Gwent wide and there have been over 20 referrals and NRM decisions made. A coordinator is in post and has taken the majority of this work on reporting on and overseeing the project's success which will either conclude at the end of March 2022 or be extended to the late start date into the summer of 2022. The project should demonstrate an increase in NRMs which assists in safeguarding children who are being exploited.
11	Continue the work started with GDAS to base multiagency staff in frontline teams.	As per the objective.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	75%	The project has progressed during continued period of COVID with a resumption of face to face work now in place. The pilot will continue as it remains funded by GDAS and the PSB are in support of this service. The outcomes will need to be evaluated jointly to determine the impact on families which is likely to be considered at the end of the financial year.
12	Work with colleagues in legal services to develop an agreed set of checklists to improve shared approaches to pre proceedings, PLO, and legal meetings.	As per the objective.	1 st April 2019	31 st March 2022	75%	The continued work with legal colleagues and social workers alongside the guidance from the judiciary has resulted in a continued reduction in cases being issued to court and less children coming in to care which is in line with the WG expectations.
13	Monitor the effectiveness of Family Group Conferencing (FGC).	As per the objective	1 st January 2020	31 st March 2022	80%	This will continue to be monitored under the ICF funding for WG. FGC's are an integral part of the offer to help support families to remain together and is proving significantly effective in doing so to the extent WG have provided Newport with

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	% Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
						funding to deliver a further lifelong Links Service as the only one in Wales. This is for children leaving care and sits within the Pathway service.

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Q2 % Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
1	Increased housing options for care leavers. Currently Newport has a limited range of choices for housing for care leavers especially with a range of suitable support. This action will seek to address this gap. Work has already commenced and will continue.	All actions in this section will contribute to improving outcomes for children in care and care leavers.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	90%	Newport has a large portfolio of semi supported accommodation and has been granted capital funding to develop 3 supported housing schemes. Housing support grant funds will assist in creating a housing support worker post in the Pathway Service and 2 support workers to support our young people in semi supported accommodation.
2	Continue to develop a range of options for CLA to engage in work experience and have the offer of a mentor.		1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	40%	This remains on hold due to the Covid restrictions.
3	Continue to work with the Pathway Service and stakeholders to ensure that all CLA are offered opportunities to develop independent living skills to ensure that young people transition into independent living successfully.		1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	80%	The Teams have developed group work/activity sessions and have linked in with the community Hubs to promote opportunities.

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Q2 % Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
4	Work to the revised guidance for Corporate Parenting from Welsh Government (due in summer 2020) with the Corporate Parenting Forum and potentially other partners to build understanding of shared responsibility.	Revised guidance has been delayed and will now be published during 2021.	1 st June 2020	31 st March 2022	0%	We still await guidance from Welsh Government. Corporate Parenting meets and is a positive and constructive forum for Member and Officers as well as key stakeholders.
5	In light of the learning during lockdown we will review our existing arrangements for family time to improve the offer for children and families: i) To develop a comprehensive framework of all aspects of family time; ii) Continue to deliver family time virtually as a positive for families.	Family Time (contact) has been successfully delivered during the pandemic with staff and families supported to ensure the service has continued despite lock down restrictions. A Policy for taking the delivery of the service forward is due to be completed with a focus on each individual child's needs being considered and met.	1 st April 2021	31 st October 2022	75%	The service continues to deliver family time to families despite the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
6	The Institute of Public Care (IPC) and the Gwent Children and Families Partnership looked at various models of mental health care for children looked after with complex needs, and decided that the MyST model was the most effective to roll out across Gwent. This was agreed as a priority area, due to the poor outcomes for this particular group and also the cost of private residential care. The		1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	90%	The MYST model continues to be a valuable resource and has been embedded within existing services.

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Q2 % Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
	team have now been appointed and the model will need to be embedded and supported by CS and other stakeholders.					

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Q2 % Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
1	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	Promote the return of Out of County foster children to Newport. These new homes will increase the number of placements available to Newport Children and also allow potential to 'sell' placements to other Gwent LA's.	1 st April 2019	31 st March 2023	65%	Windmill Farm development is underway and is at the internal design stage. Rosedale Annexes project has started and is underway.
2	To work with MyST and Fostering Team to develop a joint approach to supporting foster carers and children looked after.	This should prevent the breakdown of placements and increase the number of children in settled placements	1 st July 2020	31 st July 2021	C	We are still attempting to recruit MyST Foster carers. We are working on supporting families and developing systems and support.
3	To develop NCC's When I'm Ready (WIR) provision for care leavers and review the Supported Lodging (SL) provision to ensure consistency	An increase in appropriate WIR placements made. The support, policies and processes are in place are clear for all stakeholders. There is clarity in SL placements and supports.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	80%	WIR policies now in place. There are increasing numbers of WIR. Supported Lodging placements will decrease as WIR increases. The processes and reviews for SL are underway.

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

Action No.	Action Description	Action Outcome(s)	Start Date	Anticipated Completion Date	Q2 % Action Completed (Red / Amber / Green)	Action Commentary
1	Youth Justice Service to engage on local and national youth justice issues considering further service development in line with Welsh Government blueprint.	All of the action in this section work towards prevention of offending and re-offending.	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	70%	The Youth Justice Service continues to be an active participant in all relevant areas of work directed from Welsh Government, nationally with the Youth Justice Managers Cymru forum and the Youth Justice Board. A number of new National Standards and guidance is being produced where the service contributes directly to.
2	Further develop the support provided by the Youth Justice Service incorporating robust early intervention and prevention work; and future service transformation work.	Holistic and timely support is available to all children accessing the service from a multi-agency team, and built into their intervention plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced understanding of contextual risks impacting on the child. 	1 st April 2021	31 st March 2022	70%	The Youth Justice Service continues to overhaul how it supports children and their families/carer's. An enhanced focus is now on Preventative support and intervention, in line with the Welsh Government Youth Justice Blueprint. 60% of referrals to the service are now voluntary/preventative. The team is now visible and present in several key operational workstreams including Child Exploitation, NRM, Domestic Abuse and Anti-Social Behaviour. Group work and community projects are increasing and will be the focus of the work going forward.
3	Build on work on Contextual harm and exploitation, safeguarding research, and embed new approaches to understanding, and responding to young people's experiences of significance	Lead worker on Contextual Safeguarding to undertake Community Assessments with key partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish robust links across children's services to share learning and tools. 	1 st April 2019	31 st December 2021	C	Understanding of contextual safeguarding has now improved within the YJS and forms part of day to day assessment, risk management and safety planning practice. Work continues with relevant partners to explore ways of building knowledge of community contextual risks to inform actions.

Performance Measures (30th September 2021)

This is an update on the quarterly and half yearly performance measures for the service area to 30th September 2021. The end of year performance and previous year's Mid-year update is also included for comparative purposes. Annual measures are excluded and will be reported in March 2022. Commentary reported by exception for Amber and Red measures.

Targets have not been set for Social Services performance measures. Instead, the previous years' final actual figure will be used as a comparator to enable stakeholders understand whether performance has improved, stayed the same or worsened in the period. Where performance has worsened commentary will be provided.

Key

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

Mid-Year – 1st April to 30th September

End of Year – 1st April to 31st March

Performance Measure	Mid-Year 21/22 Actual Performance	Mid-Year 20/21 Actual Performance	End of Year 20/21 Actual Performance	Commentary
National (NEW) CH/001 - The number of contacts for children received by statutory Social Services during the year.	5,845	5,147	10,104	The increase in contacts in 21/22 reflects the challenges being experienced by children and families as a result of the ongoing issues from the pandemic. Rises in domestic abuse, family breakdown and mental ill health are reflected in the increase in contacts
National (NEW) CH/005b - The number where physical punishment by a parent or carer was the only factor.	62	Not Available	144	The data for Q2 2020/21 is not available for comparison.
National (NEW) CH/009b - The Active Offer of Welsh was accepted (During assessment)	0	0	0	
National	943	863	978	As with contacts the increased number of Care and Support Plans is a result of the issues and difficulties

Performance Measure	Mid-Year 21/22 Actual Performance	Mid-Year 20/21 Actual Performance	End of Year 20/21 Actual Performance	Commentary
(NEW) CH/015 - The total number of children with a care and support plan at 31 st March.				impacting on families. This increase in workload is heavily impacting on the workforce.
National (NEW) CH/036 - The total number of children removed (de-registered) from the child protection register during the year	121	69	148	Not Required
National CH/L01 - The total number of children registered on the child protection register in the last 12 months	63	88	179	Not Required
National CH/026 - The total number of children on the child protection register at 31 st March.	100	146	158	Not Required
National (NEW) CH/033 - The total number of reports of child exploitation received during the year	61	Not Applicable	62	The data for Q2 2020/21 is not available for comparison.
National (NEW) CH/037 - The number of children becoming looked after during the year.	58	43	91	The total number of children in the care of the Local Authority at the mid-year point is 367. This is the lowest number in the past 4 years. While the number of children coming into care has increased the number of children leaving care is even greater hence the overall lower total. Children will often be in the care of the LA for a short period before being placed with family members or being able to return to parents so whilst a rise in this measure does require monitoring it needs to be seen in the wider context of rate at which children also leave care.
Local (NEW) CH/L002 - The Number of Children who Ceased being Looked After during the year	67	40	92	Not Required
National CH/043 - The total number of children looked after at 31 st March who have experienced three or more placements during the year.	31	36	26	Not Required

Performance Measure	Mid-Year 21/22 Actual Performance	Mid-Year 20/21 Actual Performance	End of Year 20/21 Actual Performance	Commentary
National CH/045 - The total number of children who returned home during the year.	18	18	36	Not Required
National (NEW) CA/010 - The total number of contacts to statutory social services by young carers or professionals contacting the service on their behalf received during the year. Provided by Barnardos	29	56	74	No comparator assessment can be provided here as can be seen as having both a positive and negative impact when contact is made by young carers or professionals.
National (NEW) CH/L003 – Number of Foster Carers registered with the Local Authority (Inc Kinship, Supported Lodgings General and Respite)	152	158	159	Every year the number of foster carers fluctuates. Some carers will retire or leave fostering for other reasons while recruitment means new carers are being approved. The total number of general foster carers have increased during this period from 113 to 119. We then have 21 kinship foster carers and 12 support carers. Kinship carers only provide care for family members while support carers only provide respite care. So while our overall number of carers has decreased this is in fact because of a decrease in our kinship carers at the same time as an increase in our general carers.
National (NEW) CH/L004 – Number of Childrens Residential Fostering Beds	20	17	21	
National (NEW) CH/L005 – Number of Children in care proceedings during the year	26	25	44	The number of children in care proceedings during the year is dependent on the number of children at risk of significant harm and where legal proceedings are the only option to protect the child. Proceedings are always a last resort and are only explored when all other avenues to support a family have been exhausted. Children's Services. The comparison year on year therefore will depend on a number of external factors. Despite increasing referrals and increasing numbers of children supported using Care and Support plans the teams are demonstrating they are able to manage uncertainty and risk safely and overall avoid care proceedings
National CH/039 The number of children looked after children at 31 st March.	367	380	378	

Performance Measure	Mid-Year 21-22 Actual Performance	Target 2021/22	End of Year 20/21 Actual Performance	Mid-Year 20/21 Actual Performance	Mid-Year 19/20 Actual Performance	Commentary
Local (Youth Justice Service) - % of young people in suitable accommodation at the end of a statutory order.	95%	95%	98.5%	98.2%	95.6%	Not required
Local (Youth Justice Service) – Average 'Post 16' Hours at End of Intervention	15 hours	15 hours	15.8 hours	15.8 hours	14.5 hours	Not Required
Local (Youth Justice Service) - Average number of hours 'School Age' children attend at the end of an Intervention.	20 hours	17 hours	15 hours	15 hours	17.2 hours	Not Required
Local (Youth Justice Service) – Total Number of first Time Entrants	3	10 (20)	7	10	7	Not Required
Local (Youth Justice Service) - % of All cases that are community resolutions and preventative outcome.	88.7%	70%	52.7%	56.5%	74.2%	Not required