

# Bridgend County Borough Council WAO Education/LAC Study Action Plan

**Authors Bev Jones and Vikki Watkins**

Code

- 1 Met in full
- 2 Largely achieved
- 3 Partly achieved
- 4 Not met

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
<p>Elected Members and officers are aware of their duty to promote the education of LAC under Section 52 of the Children's Act 2004 and have responded positively to this legislation.</p> <p>Corporate parenting is fully understood and owned by elected members and officers both individually and collectively.</p>	Partly achieved	<p>Children and young people scrutiny committee receives regular reports re education of all children in Bridgend including Looked After Children. Officers are aware of the need to identify looked after children in order to promote their learning, supported by dedicated post.</p>	<p>Ensure all members have a copy of 'If this were my Child' to promote and facilitate greater understanding of roles and responsibilities.</p>	1		<p>Elected Members and Member Services. Principal Officer for Corporate Parenting and Corporate division provide information and training to members. Reports submitted to Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and Scrutiny Committee by relevant officers. Members of the LAC education group.</p> <p>Members of the LAC education group.</p>	<p>Training is ongoing throughout the year. Members receive reports on education outcomes for Looked After Children on a twice yearly basis.</p>	<p>Education outcomes for looked after children remains a regular agenda item for reporting to the corporate parenting cabinet committee who meet bi-monthly</p>	1		
			<p>All Corporate Parenting Committee are informed on their role as 'Corporate Parents' as part of their induction. There is ongoing training to help clarify their role and responsibilities as corporate parents.</p>	1				<p>Members are aware of their duties in relation to promoting education and the performance within BCBC. Corporate Cabinet committee members will have had receipt of annual training about their role and responsibilities.</p>	1		
			<p>Joint meetings to be convened between Safeguarding and Family Support and</p>	1				<p>Corporate Parenting strategy agreed. The LA will promote in-house apprenticeship /work experience scheme and</p>	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			Education to identify and promote better outcomes for looked after children					develop a traineeship programme across a range of council services.			
			We will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Assembly guidance via management reports, internal and external performance indicators.	1		Members, Director of Education and Children's Services.  Principal Officer for Corporate Parenting and LAC Education Coordinator.		This would result in better outcomes for young people who are, or have been in care and be more cost effective as young people would learn to be self sufficient, motivated and achieving within their potential.	2		
			Looked After Children and care leavers are seen as a priority by the whole authority.	1				Creation of champion for Looked After Children via the appointment of Principal Officer of Corporate Parenting.	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
								The authority has the same seven core aims for Looked After Children as it does for all children within the borough.	1		
Action to improve the educational outcomes of LAC is given a high priority.	Partly achieved	Recent drive to improve achievement of PEP PI linking social worker and school.	LACE introduced electronic arrangements to complete PEPs on line which has increased compliance and monitoring.	1		PEPs are distributed by the LACE team for completion by Designated teachers and social workers. Current system working effectively and there are concerns that inputting on ICS would have training, confidentiality and data capture issues.	ICS under review by WAG. Awaiting update which is expected Autumn time.	Target for completion of PEPs is 95% within timescales for 2010/11.	2		
			PEPs to be redesigned to include nursery through key stages up to higher education.	1		LACE team collate and monitor completion of PEPs.  Quality assurance audits to be undertaken via	Current arrangements to remain until WAG have clarified ICS requirements for PEPs further. This work is continuous. PEPs should be completed within	PEPs to be redesigned and monitoring arrangements to be put in place to achieve compliance targets.	1		
								Quality	2		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			Development of quality assurance auditing arrangements to improve standard of PEPs.	3		the LAC Education Group members.	20 school days of a child becoming looked after. They should be reviewed at each LAC review and revised each year or when a child changes school.	Assurance audit tool to be created and launched for use by members of the LAC Education Group.			
			PEPs are monitored and reviewed within the LAC review process. This will allow challenge to schools where a child/young person is not meeting their educational potential and targets set within their PEP.	3							
Partners are committed to improving the educational achievements of LAC and cooperate effectively in strategic planning	Partly achieved	Recent integration of children's social care and education services has enabled greater joint focus. More work needed re strategic planning	Looked after Children and care leavers are seen as a priority by the whole authority. Joint meetings to be set up between education and	1		Looked after Children and care leavers are seen as a priority by the whole authority. Joint meetings to be set up between education and	Ongoing	Meetings to be established on a half termly basis to discuss how to improve performance and to consider individual cases. (See previous comments about	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			SSD to agree terms of reference, monitor performance, resolve issues and ensure that LAC are given priority status to improve their educational experience and outcomes.			SSD to agree terms of reference, monitor performance, resolve issues and ensure that LAC are given priority status to improve their educational experience and outcomes.		the role of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.)			
Needs analysis reflects the diversity of LAC population and provides a sound basis for strategic planning.	Partly achieved	Management data gives complete profile of looked after population, but limited use in informed strategic planning.	We will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Assembly guidance via management reports, internal and external performance indicators.	1		Corporate Parenting Officer and LACE Co-ordinator	Performance indicators are reported to WAG annually and LAC data is shared with Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee bi-annually.	Performance indicators are reported to WAG annually and LAC data is shared with Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee bi-annually.	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
<b>Effective Management for Successful Implications</b>											
There are clear lines of accountability – including those for elected members and officer – regarding educational outcomes.	Partly achieved	A Corporate parenting cabinet committee chaired by the Cabinet member for children has been established. This committee will ensure that LAC are seen as a priority by the whole of the authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership.	Corporate Parenting strategy to be embedded into core business.	1		Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee	Committee meet bi-monthly.	Corporate parenting cabinet committee to meet bi-monthly and to receive and monitor information about education outcomes for looked after children.	1		
		The views of children and young people will be used by this cabinet committee to shape and influence the corporate parenting they receive. A corporate parenting policy has recently been developed that outlines clear role and responsibilities.									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		The council aims to provide strong leadership which respects the rights and needs of children who are looked after.									
Funding to support the educational achievement of LAC is managed effectively.	Partly achieved	Funding is being used efficiently to support service delivery. Funding is used effectively to provide a tutorial base which is used for curriculum delivery for children who are unable to access full-time education, although the base has only limited space. RAISE funding for LAC is used to provide a programme of extensive support for pupil at key stage 4.	'Out of Authority' multi agency panel to meet monthly to consider requests for placements for looked after children whose needs cannot be met within local resources.	1		Multi-agency 'Out of Authority panel' works to monitor and agree placements for looked after children whose needs cannot be met within local placement provision.	Ongoing	Funding to support the educational achievement of LAC is managed effectively.	2		



Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		<p>The support is well managed by the authority's RAISE LAC coordinator.</p> <p>Funding secured by a comprehensive school to appoint a learning coach to support LAC Behaviour support funding is used effectively to provide one to one support. Funding through the RAISE grant to provide targeted support for key stage 4 pupils receiving alternative curriculum provision.</p> <p>The LAC coordinator evaluates expenditure and the quality of provision and identifies areas requiring improvement as</p>									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		part of an annual report that is scrutinised by WAG.									
		The Authority recognises that this area of work is a priority that requires additional funding and resources to improve educational outcomes for LAC.									
Performance Management ensures that improvements are made, targets are met and the council knows the outcomes it is achieving.	Partly achieved	The council monitors the quality of education provision by reviewing performance indicators through the QBR process. The LAC education Coordinator monitors the completion of PEPs.	As noted opposite. We will develop further local measures on PEPs and LAC PI's.	2		LAC Education Group  Council monitoring arrangements – QBR, CIB and Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.	LAC Education Group meet on 6 weekly basis.	Joint meetings will become a regular forum to monitor performance and ensure that the Local Authority is meeting the needs of looked after children. These various meetings will provide a regular forum to monitor performance and ensure that the Local Authority is meeting the needs of looked after children.	1		
		A target of 75%	We will meet	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		of PEPs to be completed by statutory timescales is now being monitored through the QBR process. There is a need to systematically gather and analyse performance data for LAC, young people and care leavers and use this information to evaluate progress and identify future targets for improvement.	half termly with education partners to review progress, agree targets and address issues of concern to improve the educational achievements of LAC and cooperate effectively in strategic planning								
Management decisions are responsive to the diverse needs of girls and boys, the needs for provision in English and Welsh languages, children from black and minority group,	Partly achieved	Management decisions are responsive to the diverse needs of girls and boys. The needs for provision in English and Welsh languages, children from black and minority groups, children with	Data will be used to inform scoping and analysis of need, identifying trends and where to deploy resources eg across age, gender, ethnicity, SEN status, etc.	3		LAC Education Group representatives	PIs are analysed and reported annually to WAG.	Joint meetings between LAC and Education managers will focus on areas of specific need to improve performance.	1		
			Joint meeting to be developed	1				The Disability Index	2		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
children with disabilities and learning difficulties, and other differences in children's needs and preferences.		disabilities and learning difficulties, and other differences in children's needs and preferences are all monitored and addressed.	between education and social services partners to develop systems to monitor and improve performance.					Coordinator's role will aid our ability to undertake service mapping.			
			We have recently appointed a Disability Index Coordinator to develop a multi agency database. This links with the Disabled Children's strategy and Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategy. It will aid service mapping.	3							
<b>The Education Experience</b>											
High aspirations are encouraged in LAC, ambitious targets are set	Partly achieved	At KS4 the RAISE bid has provided a forum for the secondary designated	PEP targets to be reviewed regularly within LAC statutory reviews.	2		LAC Education Group.  Teachers, Social workers,	Regular meetings of the LAC Education group will be held minimum of half	There will be a joined up approach to supporting Looked After	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
for their achievement and barriers to progress are tackled effectively.		teachers. Looked After children are encouraged to overcome barriers continually.	Half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues.	1		Team Managers and Independent Reviewing Officers.	termly to monitor and review arrangements.  LAC reviews are held according to statutory timescales.	Children's educational needs through a partnership approach between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support.			
								LACE team plan continues to be ambitious in supporting the education needs of Looked After Children	1		
		The same high aspirations are set for looked after children as others. Looked after children are supported by the authority to help them achieve their educational goals.	LACE team have a specific brief to monitor and support the education of looked after children. The team's responsibility is to ensure the best interests of the child and at the same time enable them to access relevant services that may be needed to support them.	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
Action is taken to maximise attendance and avoid exclusion of LAC and to encourage their participation in post 16 education and training.	Partly achieved	Flexible set of options post 16, but limited places sometimes met with reluctance about additional costs. Aftercare team aim to support young care leavers to access training, employment or education.	Work Experience protocol now in place. Protocol to be agreed for traineeships and apprenticeships for Looked After Children being employed within BCBC.	2		PI reporting to WAG annually. LAC Project Group will monitor exclusions.	PI reporting to WAG annually. LAC Project Group will monitor exclusions.	Attendance continues to be monitored and addressed as part of PI management and the LAC Education Group agenda.	2		
			At the launch of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee there was a presentation from RCT about their traineeship scheme. Messages from their scheme to be taken forward to produce a similar arrangement within BCBC.	1				Looked after children and care leavers to have access to work experience, traineeship and apprenticeship employment opportunities within the Local Authority.	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			Half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues.	1				Protocol agreed for traineeship scheme within BCBC and person identified for the placement.	2		
								There will be a joined up approach to supporting Looked After Children's educational needs through a partnership approach between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support.	1		
Bullying and behaviour problems are tackled effectively and appropriate support is provided.	Partly achieved	The LEA has developed and distributed guidelines to schools regarding anti-bullying policies. Support available from the school counsellor,	Every school will have an identified Governor to take a special interest in LAC issues.	3		Schools  Representatives of the LAC Education group to monitor arrangements.	Ongoing	Bullying has been included in the Children and young People's Plan for 2008-11.	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		bullying log-book, learning coaches and progress managers. All children are supported in dealing with emotional problems and relationships with peers through whole school approaches.									
			Half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues including the identifying, reporting of and response to bullying	1				There will be a joined up approach to supporting Looked After Children's educational needs through a partnership approach between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support.	1		
		PEPs and PSPs are in place to encourage positive behaviour - Estyn inspection for evidence. Behaviour						Database available of identified school governors for special interest in LAC within every school in the borough.	3		



Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		difficulties are referred to the Behaviour Support Service. Often Outreach support is provided. LAC referrals are treated as a priority. BSS currently undergoing restructure.									
School awareness about the needs of looked after children and their ability to meet these needs are actively supported	Partly achieved	There have been 2 awareness raising conferences. LAC reviews identify particular circumstances which are communicated to staff appropriately Staff informed about LAC and specific needs.	Further follow up training undertaken in May 2009 using external providers. Every school will have an identified Governor to take a special interest in LAC issues.	1		Schools  Education Psychology Service  Education department as corporate parents  LAC Education Coordinator.	Ongoing	Database available of identified school governors for special interest in LAC within every school in the borough.	3		
			Half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address	1					There will be a joined up approach to supporting Looked After Children's educational needs through a partnership approach between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support.	1	

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			key issues.								
		Generally good attendance of designated teachers at LAC reviews and good communication with foster carers.									
		Schools not always made aware of all circumstances or changes in. Information can be patchy. Difficulty sometimes meeting the needs of children who change schools without a statement of SEN, but are on School Action Plus (no financial	A designated teacher is in place in every school. (See also section on PEPs.) Data to be captured about attendance of education representative at LAC reviews.	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		support for resources).									
Personal Education plans developed in partnership with relevant educational professionals are tailored to individual	Partly achieved	PEPs and IEPs are drawn up tailored to individual needs and are reviewed on a 6 monthly basis (when in place). The quality and effectiveness of PEPs is patchy and often communicated	95% of PEPs completed within statutory timescales.	1		LACE Team	Completed and reviewed according to statutory timescales	95% of PEPs completed within statutory timescales.	1		
			PEP process now initiated by LACE team who then track their completion and monitor the quality.	1		Social Workers Independent Reviewing Officers Teachers					
needs and are effectively coordinated, resourced and reviewed. Every LAC has an up to date Personal Education Plan.		informally. There is still some confusion regarding who is responsible for initiating PEPs. PEPs often drawn up without a meeting being held. Future training to be arranged on producing high quality PEPs.	LACE co-ordinator undertaking a practice workshop in January for Social Workers.	1							
			Discussions with IROs to ensure that PEPs are properly reviewed within the LAC review meeting.	2							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
<b>Support for Educational Attainment through the care planning system</b>											
Educational needs, regardless of the child's age are accurately identified as part of the core assessment.  Assessment includes consideration of diverse needs.	Partly achieved	There is clear reference made to the education of young people in core assessments, however the needs and how we meet them are not always clear. There needs to be more focused on the way we support the child and who will be involved in that process. home.	Greater use of Assessment and Progress Records to assist in assessment of a looked after child's needs. Data needs to be able to capture Looked After Children who have and haven't got an APR completed by their 10 month review.	3		Social worker	Core assessments should be completed with statutory timescales of 35 working days.	Improvements in completion rate of core assessments for all children who become looked.	3		
								Managers to constantly review the quality of core assessments and discuss within monthly supervision with the social worker.	3		
		Many LAC do not have a core assessment as it may have been felt unnecessary, eg where they are in stable, permanent placements and no contact is taking place or there is no plan for rehabilitation	Any child who now becomes looked after has a core assessment completed. The interactive practice guide advises staff on the importance of collaborative working with other relevant agencies, particularly schools and identifying	3				Quality Assurance is embedded into practice and performance	3		
								The Disability Index Coordinator's role will aid our ability to undertake service mapping.	2		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			complex needs and an assessment of risk.								
			Quality Assurance protocol in place with case files being reviewed regularly for quality and completeness. Action plans drawn up where any deficits identified	3							
			We have recently appointed a Disability Index Coordinator to develop a multi agency database. This links with the Disabled Children's strategy and Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategy. It will aid service	2							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			mapping.								
Social Workers and team managers understand the education system and how to act to support the education of looked after children.	Partly achieved	Acknowledged that this could be improved upon	LACE co-ordinator undertaking a practice workshop in January for Social Workers.	1		Social Workers Team Managers LACE Team	Ongoing	Social Workers and team managers understand the education system and how to act to support the education of looked after children.	1		
			An interactive practice guide is constantly updated to provide guidance to staff about their role and responsibilities and how to carry out their duties effectively.	1							
			Social Workers are always invited to training between LACE and education partners as part of a joint approach to training.	1							
			Half termly meetings between	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues. Information from within these meetings to be cascaded down to S&FSS team manager meetings on regular basis.								
SEN reviews and case reviews are effectively coordinated.	Partly achieved.	This is more effectively organised for children who are placed outside of the Borough, but it remains a challenge to coordinate the reviews to occur together for locally placed children. Where possible they occur together, but as the meetings are triggered from 2 different areas of service.	Compliance with statutory regulations for LAC reviews to be held within specific timescales	1		SEN department	Ongoing  SEN reviews to take place annually.	SEN reviews and case reviews are effectively coordinated.	2		
			Attention being afforded to SEN reviews taking place in conjunction with LAC reviews for children who are looked after out of the Bridgend area.	2							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			This will be considered in our half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues.	1							
<b>Residential and Foster Carer Support</b>											



Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
Residential carers and foster carers receive regular training and support including joint training with designated teachers.	Partly achieved.	Residential Services: Residential establishments are provided with training which is identified through a training needs analysis at the beginning of the financial year. Joint training with teachers is limited.	The Foster carer review process will be used to provide an opportunity to identify any gaps in the delivery of service by individual foster carers which can be responded to with specific support and training.	1		Foster carers  Supervising social workers  Social workers  Residential staff  Training department	Ongoing	To continue to develop current practices.	1		
Foster carers and residential carers have good links with designated teachers.		Resolutions Foster service: Supervising Social Workers address Looked after Children's education needs during supervision and support carers to attend education meetings.	Information and Consultation Events will be held on a quarterly basis to keep foster carers up to date with information and expectations about their role.	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		Mainstream Foster Service: Foster carers attend multi-agency training on child protection, caring for children with sexually harmful behaviour. Are also offered occasional training on dyslexia, communicating with children, attendance at Education conference specific for LAC. Each accommodated young person is allocated a Link Worker who takes responsibility for developing links with the relevant schools and teachers.	Training opportunities to continue to be provided to foster carers and residential staff. Residential care team meetings can also allow for information to be shared.	1							
			Residential staff and foster carers continue to be encouraged to attend school meetings and engage with the staff on a regular basis.	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		This is supported by other staff members and the LACE team. Resolutions Foster service: Varying degrees of good links/contact with designated teachers.	Residential staff are invited alongside designated teachers to training events run by the LACE team.	1							
		Mainstream Foster Service: In Monthly supervision of foster carers there is consideration of all issues relating to the child including school and the child's education.									
		Often carers have strong links with the child's class teacher/ Head teacher rather than the designated teacher.									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
Children's homes and fostering services including those in the independent sector have clear written education policies.	Partly achieved.	The residential homes have a written education policy to support the young people accommodated, although it is currently in draft form. The policy is written taking guidance from Towards a Stable Life and a Brighter Future and Standard 11 of the National Minimum standards. Resolutions Foster service: Currently no specific education policy – being developed in conjunction with Bridgend Foster Service.	Education policy that is being developed in conjunction with Bridgend Foster Service to be completed and launched.	3		Natalie Silcox – Fostering Team Manager  Bev Jones – LAC Coordinator	March 2011.	There will be an education policy for foster care and residential services.	3		
			We will develop an Education Policy for our Children's homes.	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		All carers are aware of the expectation to encourage and facilitate a positive attitude towards education and academic achievement. Mainstream Foster Service: In monthly supervision of foster carers there is consideration of all issues relating to the child including school and the child's education. Often carers have strong links with the child's class teacher/ headteacher rather than the designated teacher.									
Carers are aware of the diverse needs of the looked after children	Partly achieved	Working closely with schools and the LACE team all young people looked after are	Information Consultation Events (ICE) to be held on quarterly basis	1		Social Workers  Supervising Social Workers	Ongoing	Carers will be aware of the diverse needs of the looked after children in their	1		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
they care for and accommodate and support them.		accommodated within an educational provision that is suitable to meet their needs whether it is within formal or informal setting.	for foster carers. Online training has been established in conjunction with the Fostering Network and AKAMAS to increase knowledge of foster carers and address specific issues. It provides modules, tests and certificates to carers who complete the module.	1		LACE Team		care and support appropriately according to need and with monitoring from their supervising social worker and the child's social worker			
		The homes support education through in-house material and access to IT equipment. For older young people they are supported to access various alternative educational projects.	Supervising Social workers to monitor personal training portfolios with carers during the monthly supervision sessions.	1							
		The diverse needs of looked									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		after children are discussed initially during Skills to Foster training. Specific needs of individual children are discussed at pre-placement meetings. This continues throughout carers career during supervision and in response to specific issues and needs.									
		Foster carers care for children with very diverse needs and in supervision there is close attention given to how they are meeting these needs. Currently there are carers meeting a variety of differing needs including very specific special needs, learning and physical disabilities,									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		ADHD, and diverse cultural needs.									
<b>Health, Safety and Wellbeing</b>											
The impact of health, safety and well being on education achievement is fully recognised by elected members and officers.	Partly achieved	Members have been developing a Corporate Parenting Policy and as a result have increased awareness of the factors that impact on educational attainment.	We have created a Principal Officer position specifically to address issues surrounding the Authority's role and responsibilities as a Corporate Parent.	1		Members  Member services  Training Department	Ongoing	To continue to build on current arrangements.	1		
			We established a Corporate parenting cabinet committee. It has met bi-monthly since Oct 2008.	1							
			There are plans for Corporate Parenting training to Members to help them understand their role and responsibilities.	1							
			There will be regular	1							



Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			meetings with young people who receive an Aftercare service. There will be regular reporting to the Committee meeting about how well we are serving our Looked After Children.								
			Corporate Parenting Statement was launched on 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 with participation from young people.	1							
			There is a monthly schedule for Members to complete Rota visits to the children's homes.	1							
CAMHS strategy addresses the need of LAC effectively.	Not met	There is no local CAMHS strategy for Looked After Children. There is no specific CAMHS	LAC Health Forum to consider the lack of CAMHS strategy for looked after	4		LAC Health Forum Members  Head of CAMHS	March 2011	Ongoing	4		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		worker attached to the Looked After Children's Health team.	children and identify arrangements to redress.								
		The CNS LAC holds a Registered Mental Health Nurse Qualification. The holistic health assessments look at emotional and behavioural health of the child.									
		Primary mental health team is available to social workers for Looked After Children Health Team for Consultation on emotional health and behavioural concerns.									
		A Consultant Psychiatrist holds monthly surgery at Social Services BCBC for consultation with Social Workers and or									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		Health Team members. Health Team or Social Workers can refer direct to CAMHS Substance Misuse Team.									
		Any young person threatening suicide can be fast tracked to CAMHS Consultant by the Health team, Social Worker or GP.									
		Any young person admitted to Princess of Wales following an overdose will be seen by a member of the CAMHS team within 2 working days.									
<b>Involving Children and Young People</b>											
The council communicates effectively with looked after children using a range of methods.	Partly achieved.	There is a Local Participation Strategy in draft, due to be completed by April 2009, which will provide the	We will continue to use face to face, letter, email, telephone and text service to communicate	1		Children and Young People's Partnership  Corporate Parenting Cabinet	Ongoing  Review documents to be revised and	The council will continue to find innovative ways to effectively communicate with our looked after children	3		

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		framework within which all children and young people will be enabled to participate in and contribute to Partnership activities.	with our looked after children.			Committee  Independent Reviewing Officers  LAC Education Group	implemented by March 2011.	using a range of methods.			
			We will continue to promote the participation of young people at the Corporate Parenting Cabinet committee and listen and respond to their views.	1							
		Currently, there is some outstanding practice in participation of specific groups of young people, including the involvement of Looked After Children through a commissioned advocacy service, but such practice has not yet been mainstreamed, or ensure that Looked After Children are	We will continue to expand the use of the Children's Information Zone, LEO group and Aftercare newsletters to engage with young people in our care.	2							
			We will revise the LAC review consultation documents for children and young people to	3							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		consulted or communicated with. The CYP Plan has a range of priorities for extending participation and these include Looked After Children.	make them more child friendly.								
		Several young people involved with BCBC Aftercare Team have been invited to share their views about education, training and employment at the next parenting committee in March 2009. A DVD was also produced called "Making a Success of it" highlighting the achievements of looked after young people in BCBC and the support they received.									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
Staff have been trained and encouraged to listen to, and hear looked after children and support their active participation	Partly achieved.	There is little specific emphasis on Looked After Children, although training and encouragement to engage those children and young people who find it most difficult to participate is a strong element within all Partnership and local authority activities, and these will involve Looked After Children.	Further develop the Interactive Practice Guide.	2		Training department  Staff supervision will also be utilised as a vehicle to monitor that staff have the appropriate skills and experiences to support looked after children effectively.	Ongoing	Staff will continue to be supported and offered training to enable them to be child centred in the way they carry out their role and responsibilities	1		
			Continue to hold mandatory training events for Social workers and DCSW	1							
			Access specific training with BAAF and Fostering Network.	1							
			The Independent Reviewing Officers will complete an audit after each LAC review to examine participation, documentation and care planning.	2							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
The views of looked after children contribute to shaping council services and initiatives.	Partly achieved.	This is partly achieved through the wider participation processes within which LAC is included but also through the activities of LEO with Looked After Children.	<p>Former LAC young people and Looked After Children have representation on the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.</p> <hr/> <p>The Children and Young People's Plan was completed in partnership with children and young people in Bridgend in recognition of the need to consult and integrate children and young people and their views about the vision for services in Bridgend</p>	3		<p>Tros Gynnal via LEO group</p> <p>Children and Young People's Partnership</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Officer</p>	Ongoing	<p>Children and young People's Plan 2008-11 in place.</p> <p>Young People attend Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and Cabinet Members meet with Looked After and Former Looked After young people on a regular basis</p>	1	1	
		The arrangements for advocacy are being reviewed in									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
		<p>January 2009 to ensure that they continue to be effective.</p> <p>The complaints system within Safeguarding and Family Support also contributes to our views of Looked After Children being considered more widely.</p> <p>A small group of young people are currently producing a DVD to promote the need for better integrated services to young people via the development of a post 16 service It is intended to show the DVD at the Corporate Parenting Committee in March 2009.</p>									
The achievements of LAC are celebrated according to	Partly achieved	As well as opportunities within the Safeguarding & Family Support	The Mayor's Award ceremony continues to grow year on	1		LACE Team  LAC Education Group	Ongoing	The achievements of LAC are celebrated according to their	1		



Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
their personal preferences.		service, there is a Mayor's Award for which looked after children are regularly nominated.	year. There is an aim to also include children and young people's successes from outside of the school curriculum and to make the ceremony a bigger event to celebrate the successes of our Looked After Children.			Children and Young People's Partnership		personal preferences			
		Within the CYP Plan, proposals for celebrating the success of children and young people include a Charter Award, and a celebratory web site. BCBC celebrated the achievements of Looked After Children and Care Leavers at a recent awards ceremony, attended by the Mayor and senior figures.									

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
<b>Reliable Data and Information</b>											
Data on education of LAC is analysed effectively and used to determine priorities for action.	Not met	Data on Looked After Children is consistently produced and analysed on a regular basis. Specifically data on the education of looked after data is limited to performance indicators, although of course at an individual level is considered through the care plan for the child.	Half termly meetings between Education and Safeguarding and Family Support managers to track, monitor and address key issues using data and management information.	1		Data unit with analysis from senior management and the LAC Education Group.	Data is scrutinised and used to determine priorities for action within the LAC Education Group.  Performance is reported to WAG on an annual basis.	Data on education of LAC is analysed effectively and used to determine priorities for action.  ESIS project completed.	2		
			Information from within these meetings to be cascaded down to S&FSS team manager meetings on regular basis.	3					1		
			We are currently undertaking a joint piece of work with ESIS to examine transition procedures and performance of young people at key stage 2/3. It is aimed that	1							

Need	WAO Judgement	Evidence	Actions	Progress Status		Who's responsible	Timelines	Anticipated Outcome	Progress Status		Comments
				Sept 2010	March 2011				Sept 2010	March 2011	
			this will evidence good practice and identify areas for development.								

Version 3 8.9.10