

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING *CABINET BOARD*

8TH February 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES – K WARREN

MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

UPDATE ON THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the progress of the Looked after Children (LAC) Strategy (See appendix 1)

2. Executive Summary

The update to the Looked after Children Strategy provides an overview of the profile of the Looked after children population in Neath Port Talbot including their legal status, type of placement and the arrangements for providing support to children and carers.

The report considers the priorities for the Service for Looked After Children for 2018/19

3. Background

The Looked after Children Strategy was implemented in January 2015. The Strategy aims to set out a vision for how the Service will address the needs of children who are accommodated by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The Strategy provides a framework for ensuring that the Service makes available the right type of placement for children and young people at the right time. It focuses on ensuring that early intervention and prevention services are aligned with the needs of individuals and families in order to support children to remain living at home when it is safe to

do so, and to support children to return to their families if there is no risk to their well-being.

The Strategy provided a structure to how children, families and foster carers will be supported to ensure that they have the skills to look after the children in their care and that children receive the support they need to achieve positive outcomes.

The update report aims to reassure Members that although at its initial implementation the Strategy set out targets for achieving a safe reduction in the number of children who are looked after, that the focus of the strategy is on ensuring that children are looked after safely and that they have stability in the right placement to meet their needs. The LAC reduction figures have been included in the update report to demonstrate that although the targets have been met in reducing the number of children in care that this is through achieving good outcomes which have been sustainable.

4. Financial Impact

There are no specific financial implications arising directly out of this report except those linked to the forward financial planning of the Local Authority.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impacts associated with this report

6. Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

7. Legal Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

8. Risk Management

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report

9. Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

10. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the update to the Looked After Children Strategy and the priorities for the forthcoming financial year.

11. Reason for Proposed Decision

Not applicable – report is for information

12. Implementation of Decision

Not applicable – report is for information

13. Appendices

LAC Strategy Update

14. List of Background Papers

None

15. Officer Contact

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