Education:
Ensuring that looked after children achieve the best possible educational outcomes.

• In collaboration with Coleg Gwent and NEET Project we have reduced numbers of children who are looked after not in education, employment or training (NEET).
• Increased the engagement and attendance of young offenders who are children looked after.
• We have achieved a reduction in numbers of children who are looked after receiving exclusions from school.
• We have provided tuition and a wide range of other resources to improve the literacy and numeracy levels of children who are looked after.
Health: Improving the health outcomes of looked after children and to provide them with appropriate health care and advice.

- Foster carers are registering the children they care for with GP surgeries and dentists as required in the Stable Life & Brighter Futures guidance.
- Foster carers receive on-going support and health advice from the looked after children’s specialist nurse.
- Primary immunisations are completed for 95% of looked after children.
- Emotional health and wellbeing is supported through matching and placement support (MAPS) team.
Home:
Providing looked after children with good quality, stable placements where they feel safe, valued and cared for by excellent carers.

• CSSIW recognised our commitment to corporate parenting as being a priority in the 2014 review of looked after children services.
• Our children in care council has been established and have been busy, meeting on a regular basis, and contributing to service development for children services.
• Foster carers have access to a range of training, which is offered on a regular basis.
• We now have a matching & placement support team which works therapeutically with children and foster carers to improve placement stability and develop foster carer’s skills.
• Foster carers have direct access to senior officers and our Cabinet Member for Education and Young People through 6 monthly foster carer forums.
Life story workshops have been delivered to support staff development in the important piece of work.

Reduction of looked after children being placed with independent agencies and an increase in children cared for by Newport approved foster carers.

Relocation of adoption team to South East Wales Adoption Service showed increase in adoption placement options.

Closer links have been established between the fostering service and 16+ team in the work being undertaken to develop services to meet the requirements for ‘When I Am Ready’.

Home:
Providing looked after children with good quality, stable placements where they feel safe, valued and cared for by excellent carers.
Leaving care:
Supporting looked after children and care leavers to prepare for the future and make positive choices for independent living in order to become successful fulfilled members of society.

- Aftercare team developed into 16+ team - providing closer support to 16-25 year olds.
- We have developed links with the University of South Wales, providing opportunities for individuals to undertake university taster days.
- We have obtained a grant from DWP to develop training programme for NEET young people leaving care.
- We have been working in partnership with Positive Futures.
- We have developed positive working relationships with housing teams - 16+ team direct point of access.
- Support of shared living project to reduce use of B&B accommodation for young people.
Leisure:

Supporting and encouraging looked after children and care leavers to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activity to enable them to fulfil their potential.

• Provision of sport and leisure membership card giving access to free and reduced price activities within leisure centres.

• Designated sports session one evening a week at Newport Centre.

• Themed sports days.

• Free activity vouchers for young parents and children to access Active Tots sessions at council leisure centres.

• Positive Futures mentoring programme - giving access to young people to become volunteers, sports leadership training and be more active in their community.