



# Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

## The number of children Looked After has continued to reduce

We have one of the lowest number of Looked After Children in Wales. Preventative teams such as Family Support service and Edge of Care Team have been re-designed to focus on working intensively with families and children to try and avoid the need for statutory intervention whenever possible. Systemic practice incorporating Signs of Safety model is embedding in our child care teams. The revised Families First programme, comprising 13 projects, has been delivering a range of activities in partnership with other agencies with an aim of preventing, and mitigating the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Full roll-out of the 30 hours of free childcare offer commenced in January 2019.

### Why it is important

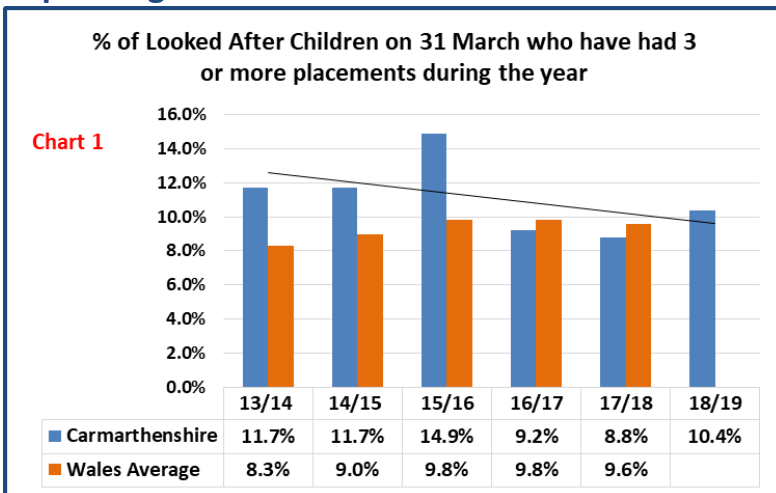
- Because giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course
- Early intervention is key to long term health and well-being. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status
- Because Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to multiple risks associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care

### Success Measure

**10.4%** of children in care who had to move 3 or more times

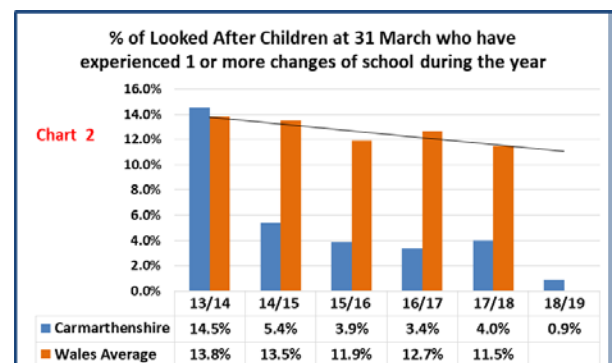


### Explaining the Results



We have seen a slight dip in performance this year with 19 children having moved 3 or more times compared to 17 during 2017/18. However, it shows an overall improvement of 4.5% since 15/16. (See Chart 1)

School stability is also an important factor in improving outcomes, and it is important to note that Looked After children in Carmarthenshire experience significantly fewer school moves than anywhere else in Wales – 0.9% during 2018/19 (better than Wales average 11.5% 2017/18) (See Chart 2)



In the **long-term** our focus is on prevention and maintaining children at home with families and out of the care system wherever possible, as well as providing extra resources for foster carers to support the children in their care to avoid the need to move wherever possible.

## Progress Made

- ⦿ **30 hours free childcare offer** will be a significant savings for many Carmarthenshire families. To date **557** applications received from Carmarthenshire parents/carers, **180** Carmarthenshire Childcare providers have signed contracts, and **£172,640.25** in payments has been administered to local childcare providers since implementation.
- ⦿ We are continuing to implement the **Team Around the Family (TAF)** approach across the county for 0-25 year olds. The Eligibility document regarding thresholds and access to TAF services has been completed. The new JAFF, and the new TAF-in-Schools project have also commenced implementation since April 2019.
- ⦿ **9291 individuals** received support from **Families First (FF)** projects during 2018-19. From April 2019 FF programme will be included with 6 other funding streams under the Children & Communities Grant (CCG).
- ⦿ **Flying Start** service is being fully delivered across 18 areas, covering 768 postcodes within Carmarthenshire. FS Health Visitors are delivering the healthy child Wales Programme (HCWP) through a multi-disciplinary approach.
- ⦿ **Attachment awareness** training has been provided to all 73 schools that have looked after children, and is being embedded as part of the core training within the 'behaviour transformation programme' in schools.
- ⦿ An active consultation group for care experienced children called ECHOES, run jointly with Voices from Care and Children's Services have developed the 2019 Corporate Parenting Strategy.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS FESTIVAL OF CELEBRATION

In the company of council officers, a number of children and young people received an award for their academic success, artwork, sporting and volunteering contributions. A young person compered the event very effectively and a special talk was given.



Executive Board Member  
For Education & Children  
Cllr Glynog Davies



View our [detailed progress here](#) against this objective