



Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

NATIONAL INSPECTION

SAFEGUARDING AND CARE PLANNING OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS, WHO EXHIBIT 'VULNERABLE OR RISKY BEHAVIOURS.

Introduction

- Background, parameters and purpose of inspection programme.
- Key findings and main messages.

Key Findings

- Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people' had been identified as a corporate priority for the authority. Elected members and senior officers were well informed and evidenced strong commitment to support looked after children and young people.
- There was clear leadership and a positive culture within the management team. The workforce had been stable with managers and staff evidencing a strong commitment to improving outcomes for looked after children and young people.

Key Findings

- The authority should give consideration as to whether a more co-ordinated approach to influencing improvements for the looked after population could be strengthened from the development of a corporate parenting strategy.
- The authority could improve the effectiveness of service planning and identifying gaps in provision if the profile of vulnerability and risk was included in the profile of the looked after population.

Key Findings

- There was a clear shared understanding and commitment from staff to safeguard young people and improve their outcomes.
- There were some good examples of risk assessment seen on files which were comprehensive and resulted in clear safety plans. It was not always evident whether young people had been engaged in the process.

Key Findings

- The authority had identified the need to increase the range of placements available especially for those young people with challenging behaviour and additional needs.
- Concerns had been expressed about the ability of services for ‘children and adolescents with emotional and mental health issues’ to meet needs.
- Care leavers were positive about the support they received from their personal advisors which was timely and effective.

Key Findings

- Core assessments seen were not consistently well recorded, lacked analysis and were not routinely updated.
- The engagement of the police in the implementation of the protocol for missing young people should be revisited to ensure that the arrangements are clearly understood and working effectively.

Key findings

- Consideration should be given to how challenges brought by the IRO service could be evidenced and how outcomes are influenced.
- Managers and workers were intent on listening to the voice of the child and were persistent in their efforts to engage with young people.
- Consideration should be given to whether there could be a more consistent approach to support looked after young people to be engaged in participation and the development and improvement of service delivery.