

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th January, 2024 at 6.00 pm
in Savoy Suite 1 - The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ

Present: Members

County Councillor Loraine Cox	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Hind	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ron Woollam	- Lancashire County Council
David Russo	- Fostering Forum
Horateo	- LINX/CLF Representative
Emma	- LINX/CLF Representative
Mary	- LINX/CLF Representative
Liam	- LINX/CLF Representative

Co-opted members

Audrey Swann	- Education Improvement, LCC
Andreas Feldhaar	- Permanence Service, LCC
Hayley Kinowski	- Safeguarding, Audit and Inspection, LCC
Moya McKinney	- Permanence Service - Leaving Care, LCC
Clare Platt	- Health, Equity, Welfare and Partnerships, LCC
Heidi Fliegau	- Fostering, Adoption Lancashire Blackpool, and Residential Services, LCC
Neil Drummond	- Lancashire Constabulary PPU
Adam Riley	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
April Pollitt	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Alex Wood	- Residential Provider
Ripley Buswell	- Children and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC

Other Attendees

Jennifer Robertshaw	- Permanence Service, LCC - Children's Social Care, LCC
Clare Smith	- Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC

1. Icebreaker

Young people from Lancashire's Children in Care Council (LINX) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF) opened the meeting with an icebreaker.

2. Introductions and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, County Councillor Loraine Cox conducted the meeting.

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from County Councillors Clarke, Gibson and Kay, Andy Smith, Brendan Lee, Gina Power, Louise Humphreys, Maureen Huddleston, Caroline Waldron, Sharon Hilton, Jenny Ryder and Bev Maymond.

The Board noted that Jen Robertshaw, Interim Head of Permanence Service had replaced Brendan Lee, however he would remain on the Board as Interim Head of Family Safeguarding Service, as Mandy Williams had left the Authority. Thanks was noted to Brendan for his continued support to the Board and the support he had given as Lead Officer in his role as Head of Permanence Service.

There was one replacement for the meeting:

Heidi Fliegau for Amanda Barbour, Fostering, Adoption Lancashire Blackpool and Residential Services, Lancashire County Council.

An extended welcome was given to invited guests as follows:

- Rachel Rump – Skills, Learning and Development, Lancashire County Council
- Vanessa Carthy - Skills, Learning and Development, Lancashire County Council
- Dr Michele Lawty-Jones, Skills and Employment Partnership, Lancashire County Council
- Lesley Rae – Lancashire Volunteer Partnership, Lancashire County Council
- Charlotte Iddon – Education Improvement, Lancashire County Council
- Zoe Emmett – Education Improvement, Lancashire County Council

3. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 22 November 2023

Resolved: That the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Participation Team Update

Young people from Lancashire's Children in Care Council (LINX) and the Care Leavers Forum (CLF) informed the Board that they were looking at a new approach to sharing information about the forums with all care experienced children and young people in Lancashire. The process will mean that everyone gets a choice about how they are involved in either the Care Leaver Forum (CLF) or the Children in Care Council (LINX). This will be a process that any key adult can introduce to a child or young person, and it will be reviewed at every Child Looked After (CLA) or Pathway Plan review so the child or young person can choose one of these options (or a combination of them).

The first option is a Group member and with this option, the child or young person will attend the groups in person, where they would meet staff, other members and become actively involved in the week-to-week running of the groups and would hopefully want to stay and attend regularly.

The second option is a Holiday member, which is when holiday activities are available. It is the case that different children and young people attend those sessions, who cannot commit to coming to the regular groups. These children and young people would receive invites to holiday activities, trips and events.

Digital members would be contacted using different methods like email or messaging to share their views without ever needing to attend an activity in person. Information can be shared with them using their phone number or email address and they can keep also keep in touch with forums.

Finally, a child or young person may choose to opt out, however, it is hoped that they would choose the other options, however, it is also respected that children and young people may not want to be part of the forums in any way. This will be reviewed regularly, and a child or young person can change their mind in between reviews if they wish.

The Board were asked to discuss this approach on their tables and to look at naming the process. Members fed back thoughts on the different options available to children and young people regarding membership of Lancashire's Children in Care Forum (LINX) and the Care Leaver Forum (CLF). Generally, feedback was positive about the flexibility and choice that the process offers and comments will be incorporated into the process as it is developed. An update will be brought back to the Board later in the year as it is finalised and rolled-out.

Resolved: That the Board noted the young people's update and welcomed a future update on the process of sharing information about the forums with all care experienced children and young people in Lancashire

5. Care Leaver Covenant/Education, Employment and Training (90 mins)

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council led the Board through a workshop activity to discuss the Care Leaver Covenant and to develop a plan to take this forward. The young people are working on a presentation to the Extended Senior Leadership Team at the Council in March 2024 to promote the Whole Council Approach and to discuss what the Council can offer to their young people. Education, Employment and Training is a key part of the whole Council approach and there is also a Police Charter being developed, which is being led by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members were asked to discuss and develop a clear plan of how the Corporate Parenting Board will promote Education, Employment and Training Opportunities under the Care Leaver Covenant in Lancashire. In order to develop the plan, groups were briefed on the following and asked to discuss:

Three focus areas/groups:

- What can Lancashire County Council and District Councils offer?
- What can Policy Partners and Businesses offer?
- What pre-employability and career support can be offered?

Two parts for each focus area/group:

- What is the offer we want for our young people?
- How to support young people to overcome barriers to access/succeed?

The plan will include the following:

- What offers do we want for our young people?
- How do we achieve this and who should be involved/approached|?
- How do we know we are making progress and have an impact (KPI)?

Following discussion, feedback was received, which would then be developed as a plan, which will be presented back at a future Board meeting. Feedback from the groups is attached to the minutes.

An issue was raised with regards to providing bus passes for Children in Care and Care Leavers and a request to discuss this at a future Board meeting.

- Resolved:**
- i) That the Board would receive a draft plan at a future meeting.
 - ii) That consideration be given to a future agenda item around bus passes for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

6. Any Other Business

PROUD Event

The Board were reminded that the PROUD Event will be held on 29 February 2024 at Burnley Football Club which will celebrate the achievements of Lancashire's children in care and care leavers. There were over 220 nominations received from colleagues within Lancashire County Council, carers and outside partners. Shortlisting took place on 8 January 2024 and young people from Lancashire's Children in Care Council (LINX) and Care Leavers Forum (CLF) were also involved. Those shortlisted will be invited to attend the event where the winner of each category will be announced.

On the evening there is a free raffle for all young people shortlisted and the Board were asked if they had any connections who may wish to donate a raffle prize to email the PROUD inbox. Young people will also receive a goodie bag and again members were asked if they had any relevant information, promotional material that could be included to email PROUDrecognition@lancashire.gov.uk.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 13 March 2024 at 6.00pm in the Savoy Suite 1, The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

TABLE 1

What pre-employability and career support can be offered

- Employment Readiness & Support
- Support to Overcome Barriers

WHAT offers do we want for our young people	HOW do we achieve this and WHO should be involved/approached	HOW do we know we are making progress & have an impact (KPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of volunteering in different areas • Find areas of interest/skills • See positive role model • Build confidence • Start at young age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer teams – LCC/Health/EST/DWP • Via PEP, Carer/SW/PA/School • Support required from manager - trauma informed approach • Connecting support from all agencies/services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard basic level of support agreed and all available across all agencies and services. • More opportunities available and taken up.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending opportunities for volunteering – Lancashire County Developments Limited and the companies involved. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easy – eg young parents, volunteering in local family hubs eg mother and baby group to be helped by care experienced young people with their child. • Help with local young zone activity. 	Child and Family Wellbeing Service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep for CV building and writing • Prep for interviews • Expenses paid – clothes and travel 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information regarding young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanence Service, Virtual School • Survey young people • Ask questions 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable and suitable accommodation • Stable experience of education in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC, District Councils • Schools, LCC and Corporate Parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people have stability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of public transport • Proximity to home 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available network of Peer Support with other young people also volunteering 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic minimum standard of support from <u>ALL</u> FE colleges for our care experienced young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FE Colleges • Virtual School • Children's Social Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template will exist and be shared. • Local Offer • Young people and Children's Social Care

TABLE 2

What pre-employability and career support can be offered

- Employment Readiness & Support
- Support to Overcome Barriers

WHAT offers do we want for our young people	HOW do we achieve this and WHO should be involved/approached	HOW do we know we are making progress & have an impact (KPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer mentors of young people who have gained employments speaking to others. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan B's and exploring options with EST 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Creative industries • PAs • Carers and residential providers • Places to advertise opportunities (like Escalate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEET & EET figures • % targets around apprenticeships, shadowing, work experience opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work experience • 2 weeks minimum for ALL young people • COVID as a barrier • Risk assessment/Health and Safety • Volunteering (internally) • Accrediting being part of the Care Leavers Forum and registered through Lancashire Volunteer Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal services to offer placements • Schools • Carers and residential • 1 day shadowing opportunity with staff in LCC (like 11 million many years ago!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing good examples • Agile working cannot be a barrier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV writing and job application skills • Interview practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And follow ups with the worker/YP if they did not get the employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with employers around recruiting those with care experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding what kind of support young people might need • Employer launch • Little things that are supportive (Merlin Entertainment) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying young people as care experienced – when people apply being able to monitor this• Guaranteed interviews• Informal meetings prior to interview		
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TABLE 3

What can Policy Partners and Businesses offer

- Training & Employment Opportunities
- Support to Overcome Barriers

WHAT offers do we want for our young people	HOW do we achieve this and WHO should be involved/approached	HOW do we know we are making progress & have an impact (KPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide offer of employer encounters, experiences and support to help young people access employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancashire Skills Pledge working alongside CLC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEET figures • Case studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fair wage for Apprenticeships allowing care leavers to support themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-up funding? • Promotion of the bursary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadowing – employment tasters • Giving young people the chance to see what an employment/work environment is like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging business to offer short-term shadowing opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC – "Family firm" approach and district councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Care Leavers in the recruitment process at all levels • Guaranteed interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social value embedded into the procurement system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain companies offering opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to young people who have physical or hidden disabilities to access employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP Access to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies

TABLE 4**What can Lancashire County Council and District Councils offer**

- Training & Employment Opportunities
- Support to Overcome Barriers

WHAT offers do we want for our young people	HOW do we achieve this and WHO should be involved/approached	HOW do we know we are making progress & have an impact (KPI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More supported opportunities in LCC – shadowing, work experience, apprenticeships, employment and District Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Service/Teams to commit to specific numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor numbers and outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to 'mentoring' within LCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work "buddy" • Senior Leadership Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate what is available within LCC – breadth of jobs/teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job fairs/events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers taking up opportunities • EET data • Feedback from young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold companies to account to provide opportunities to Care Leavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed interviews for Care Leavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Service/Managers • Recruitment policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data/outcomes