Corporate Parenting Board Wednesday, 13 March, 2024 at 6.00 pm Savoy Suite 1 - The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ



Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Icebreaker (10 mins)

Young people from LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council/CLF (Care Leavers Forum)

2. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Clarke

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

3. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 10 (Pages 1 - 6) January 2024

County Councillor Clarke

To agree for accuracy the notes of the meeting and receive any matters arising.

4. Participation Team Update (15 mins)

Young people from LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council), April Pollitt and Adam Riley, Participation Team, Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC

To receive an update on what the Participation Team have been doing with LINX since the last Board meeting.

5. Adoption Service Report (30 mins)

(Verbal Report)

Karen Barker, Fostering Adoption Lancashire Blackpool and Residential Services, Lancashire County Council

To receive the report.

6. Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (Pages 7 - 18) Health Strategy (30 mins)

Kirsty Hamer, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB)

To receive the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board Children in Care and Care Leaver Health Strategy and information on the Our Voice, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Pilot for Children in Care and Care Leavers in East Lancashire.



7. Our Voice, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Pilot (15 (Verbal Report) mins)

Sue Monighan and Lesley Hall, Child Action North West (CANW)

To receive information on the pilot for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Lancashire.

8. Any Other Business

County Councillor Clarke

To receive any other business.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Clarke

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

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 Fliegauf	 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, LCCChildren'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 Fliegauf 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.

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NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board Children in Care and Care Leavers Health Strategy

2024-2026





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Introduction

Children in care and care leavers are identified as the most vulnerable cohort within our populations. This is in view of their adverse childhood experiences, trauma and subsequent increased vulnerability to harm and health inequalities. A plethora of research available to date evidence that this population often experience poorer outcomes and life chances than that of their peers. Children in care are 50% more likely to have a diagnosable mental health disorder. Children in care and care leavers are at increased risk of being exploited, experience substance misuse issues and are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

The NHS has a significant role in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of health services to children in care as part of their statutory responsibilities. The NHS Constitution for England make clear the responsibilities of NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS England to children in care and care leavers. The NHS must cooperate with NHSE/I, Public Health England, and Local Authorities to commission effective services.

The Children Act (2004), and further strengthened in the Children and Social Work Act (2017), outlines the corporate parenting responsibility of local authorities and creates a duty for relevant partners, including health, to cooperate with local authorities to improve the well-being of children in their local area. The corporate parenting principles include the requirements to act in the best interests, and promote the physical, mental health and wellbeing of children in care and as corporate parents ask, "whether this would be "good enough for my own child." The government's response to the UK Care Review 'Stable Homes, built on love' consultation, published in September 2023, outlines that strengthened corporate parenting responsibilities will also be extended to relevant public bodies which incorporates ICBs within the next 18 months. This strategy aims to take into consideration the future requirements of these duties.

This strategy outlines Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board's commitment and proposed activity in meeting our statutory responsibilities and corporate parenting duties. Each section of the strategy identifies the key priority areas required to support improved health outcomes for the children in care and care leavers population. The delivery of this strategy is aligned in recognition of the interdependencies with Local Authorities in their lead role as Corporate Parents for children in care and care leavers and their respective Corporate Parenting Strategies.

Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to ensure all children in care and care leavers will be afforded the opportunity to achieve positive health outcomes. This will be facilitated by the effective commissioning and delivery of health services across the ICB to reduce any unwarranted variation in service offer, scope of service and equity of access. The ICB has pledge to move to a Trauma Informed system, which will continue to build health commissioned services that will deliver trauma practice, with a skilled workforce who are knowledgeable around their individual roles and responsibilities as corporate parents.

Children in care and care leavers views



Safeguarding children in care and care leavers

"Children and young people in care, and those with safeguarding concerns, remain some of the most vulnerable in our society"

Care Quality Commission (2016) 'Not seen, Not Heard'.

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- To understand the specific issues that children in care and care leavers face are known, and that they inform practice and increase quality of provision and experience.
- To ensure that experiences of health commissioned services will not re-traumatise children in care and care leavers.
- Young people can make informed decisions around risk, they recognise positive relationships.
- All health professionals are aware of children in care and care leavers increased vulnerabilities and risk of harm.
- There are consistent and robust information sharing arrangements within health, provider organisations and with our statutory safeguarding partners.
- Transitional safeguarding that there are robust support plans into adult services for young people preparing to leave care.
- Children and young people report to living in homes and communities where they feel safe.
- To influence local safeguarding partnerships to have clear governance arrangements with policies and procedures specific to children in care and care leavers.
- Children in care will have access to timely, trauma informed statutory health assessments
 which will agree with the child a plan of care, identify any early vulnerability to risk, share key
 public health messages and access support from other services as required to keep them
 safe.

- Children in care and care leavers will be listened to and we can demonstrate how we take account of their views, according to their age and understanding in identifying and meeting physical, emotional, and mental health needs.
- We will as a statutory safeguarding partner, ensure that current safeguarding arrangements and safeguarding strategies reflect inequalities that impact children in care and care leavers.
- All health service delivery will be trauma informed.
- We will work with health partners to ensure there is effective delivery and uptake of mandatory safeguarding training and the impact of this measured.
- Ensure that there are effective communication and information sharing pathways between health and regulated / unregulated residential care providers.
- We will implement learning from missing from home episodes and use this to influence and changes health related practice where required.

 We will implement learning from national and local safeguarding reviews where children in care and care leavers are cited.

Positive emotional health well-being

"Children in care are approximately four times more likely to have a mental disorder than children living in their birth families and there is a high prevalence of trauma in children in care and young people."

NSPCC, (2015).

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- We will be able to have a greater understanding of the emotional health of the ICB's children in care and care leavers population and using this to inform commissioning of future provision.
- Children in care and care leavers report positive self-esteem and experience good emotional health and wellbeing.
- Children in care and care leavers have dedicated timely access and have good outcomes from dedicated specialist emotional health provision.
- We will minimise re-trauma of our children in care and care leavers by health services delivering trauma informed approaches.
- We will continue to demonstrate compliance with statutory requirements to support the positive emotional health and wellbeing of children in care and care leavers.
- There will be equity of access of mental health services for children in care and care leavers who live within our footprint.
- Strength and difficulty questionnaire annual scores will reflect an overall improved average demonstrating children and young people are experiencing good emotional health and wellbeing.

- Ensure all health services offer a trauma informed approach to prevent re-traumatisation and therefore promote future engagement with health services to access the right support at the right time.
- The specific health needs of children in care and care leavers are reflected in mental health strategies and policies across the ICB and are recognised as requiring priority access.
- We will ensure that the annual completion of the 'strength and difficulty questionnaire,' forms part of children in care key performance indicators.

- `Health` are embedded in care planning processes to facilitate seamless transfer of care to prevent any delays in provision.
- Ensure that all commissioned services capture and provide analysis of the specific mental health needs of our children in care and care leavers population to inform future commissioning.

We will aim to ensure that all children and young people will experience reduced health inequalities.

"Improving the health outcomes and life chances of children in care is a matter of public health concern. On average, individuals who have been looked after face worse outcomes across a range of measures, throughout the life course"

Bywater's (2015).

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- We will be able to demonstrate that all our children in care have experience of timely and quality statutory health assessment and provision by services that understand their needs.
- Children in care and their support network and families will have the required skills and knowledge to effectively navigate health services without discrimination or unconscious bias.
- All children in care are given options, knowledge, details of benefits and risks to have fully informed access to immunisation programmes, routine dental care, and universal health services as and when required.
- All children in care, irrespective of their originating area, will have the same access to services and support. Living away from their originating authority will not disadvantage children in care.
- Our commissioned services understand, and their policies reflect children in care and care leaver's additional vulnerabilities so they can receive the right support.

- Consultation and co-production with children in care and care leavers to ensure that we are getting it right.
- We will collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to support high quality residential provision for children in care to minimise breakdowns in these arrangements.
- We will include in the ICB joint forward plan our commitment to improve our response to conducting statutory heath care assessments for children in care.

- Collaborate with local authorities to improve quality, timeliness of initial health assessments and associated pathways for the statutory health assessment co-ordination.
- All professionals supporting children in care and care leavers understand their specific health needs and vulnerabilities.
- Development of an ICB service specification built upon public health principles of health promotion, health protection and ill health prevention for delivery of an enhanced offer to support the children in care and care leaver population.
- Development of an ICB dashboard for system performance in respect of providing assurance around compliance with key performance indicators for children in care.
- We will work with local authority/receiving authority/residential providers to facilitate robust transfer of care processes, ensuring that health is in involved in care planning arrangements.

We will ensure health services are commissioned to support the specific health needs of children in care and care leavers.

"All commissioners of health services should have appropriate arrangements and resources to meet the physical and mental health needs of looked after children".

Department of Health (2015), Promoting the Health of Looked After Children.

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- Access to quality and timely services irrespective of where they live without any facing any barriers.
- Children in care and care leavers have positive experience of health services.
- They will experience effective transition from children to adult health services as deemed necessary.
- They will report positive relationships with health professionals who have a sound knowledge of their role as corporate parents.
- We will know the specific health needs of our children in care and care leavers population.
- Ensure that commissioned services design and delivery is informed by the specific health needs of children in care and care leaver population based on local need and in co-production with children and young people.

Deliverables - how will we achieve our aim?

 Commissioning of all health services will include the requirement for contractual reporting of the service offer and uptake by children in care and care leavers.

- Undertake a health needs assessment of our ICB population and discuss and listen to children in care and care leavers to inform future integrated programmes of work, commissioning of services.
- Any identified gaps in service provision will be included in future commissioning intentions and activity.
- Care leaver health summaries will be reviewed in partnership with young people to provide them with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the health system.
- Ensure that there is robust information sharing agreements and systems in place for children in care and care leavers, so they do not have to repeat their life stories.

Health is a Good Corporate Parent

"In order to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parent meet. This principle is to act in the best interests and promote their physical and mental health and wellbeing".

HM Government (2018).

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- Corporate parenting principles are understood and embedded.
- Children in care and care leavers have a positive experience of accessing health services and professions that work collaboratively.
- We will strive to ensure there are access and opportunities for care leavers to enter work via apprenticeships pathways within health services.
- Care leavers on low incomes are fully aware and confident in their ability to access universal and specific services and are not disadvantaged due to the care experienced status.
- We will have a good understanding of all the specific health needs of children in care and care leavers.

- We will embed the corporate parenting principles and have corporate parent champions in each of our health settings.
- Children in care and care leavers will be actively supported as part of our participation offer to influence, inform, and shape pathways and improvement programmes.
- Children in care and care leavers participate in health recruitment processes of specialist roles within health.
- We will work to raise awareness to the wider health workforce of their role as a corporate parent, embedding a trauma informed approach e.g. use of language.

- We will work with NHSE/I colleagues and the ICB to develop opportunities to provide a care leaver apprenticeship scheme and work experiences.
- We will seek to develop an ICB offer for the provision of free prescriptions for care leavers age 18-25 specific to their needs, i.e. whether a student, low income, or condition management.
- Our corporate parenting responsibilities will be referenced in our ICB strategies and policies.
- We will deliver against the commitments as set out in the Care Leavers Covenant.

When young people leave care their additional health needs and vulnerabilities will be recognised.

"Care leavers will have faced many challenges in their lives and are likely to need much more support than other young people as they make the transition to adulthood".

Edward Timpson HM Government, Keep on Caring (2016).

Outcomes - what are we trying to achieve.

- Care leavers will experience a co-ordinated transition from children health services to adult health services.
- Care leavers will be able to access dedicated support in addressing their emotional health and well-being.
- Our adult services will offer a trauma informed care approach and be aware of the specific vulnerabilities of care leavers.
- Health services will be able to identify care leavers in their care, so support them in receiving timely access to services.

- Inclusion of a training offer in future service delivery for the adult health workforce on the health of the specific needs of care leavers and corporate parenting responsibilities.
- We will provide voice and engagement/consultation opportunities to ensure that we are getting it right.
- We will ensure provision of a summary of previous health information and detailing support to how to access health services via a personal health passport to all care leavers.
- We will work with mental health and primary care commissioners to strengthen the offer for our care leavers population through a trauma informed approach, so that care leavers are able to be identified for receiving the right support at the right time.

We will seek to provide additional support to those children and young people who are in the process of or have secured permanence.

"There is growing evidence that adopted and permanently children in care's early experiences continue to have an impact on their outcomes long after they move to their adoptive families" Department for Education (2017).

Outcomes – what are we trying to achieve.

- Children will continue to receive support from health services to support timely permanence arrangements.
- Children who have secured permanence via adoption will continue to receive a health offer to support their continued health needs.

- We will work in partnership with local authorities and regional adoption agencies to support timely and quality health information is available to inform permanence via adoption for children in care.
- Development of ICB wide health adoption policies and procedures to ensure there are robust frameworks in place.
- We will work with all commissioners of health services across the Integrated Care System to explore the universal offer to provide a continued health offer for supporting children and their families pre and post adoption and children reunified home.
- We will work in partnership with local authorities to develop shared adoption medical processes and procedures through a single health approach to reduce unwarranted variation.
- We will work with key stakeholders and statutory partners with corporate parenting responsibilities so that when children are reunified home, they do not experience any delays in health provision.

Measures of Success

"A resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities."

World Health Organisation (1986).

To measure improved health outcomes for children in care and care leavers, the wider social determinants of health need to be included and form part of a shared outcome framework in conjunction with activity undertaken by statutory partners and key stakeholders. The ICB will implement a delivery action plan which underpins the strategy and outlines health's contribution to supporting improved health outcomes as detailed below.

- Compliance with performance for the provision of timely and high-quality statutory health assessments for children in care.
- ICB consultation and engagement model with our children in care and care leavers, to coproduce and inform health service delivery and commissioning of services.
- The strengths and difficulties questionnaire average score demonstrates good emotional health for our children in care.
- There is no unwarranted variation in access to health services and children placed away from their originating area are not disadvantaged.
- Compliance with all statutory health responsibilities reported via an ICB dashboard.
- Positive feedback from children and young people around their experiences and access to health services that we are getting it right and providing a trauma informed approach.
- Health professionals and key stakeholders provide positive feedback regarding the health services afforded to children in care and care leavers and their accessibility.
- External regulatory activity identifies good and outstanding practice which can be evidenced as having an impact on reducing health inequalities.