

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Pryn

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meetings held on 18 April 2013, 17 June 2013 and 25 July 2013 (Pages 1 - 62)

County Councillor Pryn

To agree for accuracy the notes of the meetings.

3. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meetings held on 18 April 2013, 17 June 2013 and 25 July 2013 (5 mins)

County Councillor Pryn

To receive an update from the matters arising from the notes of the meeting.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing (15 mins)

County Councillor Pryn and other Elected Members

To note feedback from work undertaken by the Chair of the Board and our Elected Members including Members' visits.

5. What Does Our Performance Tell Us? (5 mins) (Pages 63 - 68)

Louise Mackender De Cari

To receive an update on current performance data.

What have our Young People been doing?

6. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (15 mins)

Young People and Barnardos

To receive feedback on the work our young people have been doing.

What Do We Need to Know

7. Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention (5 mins) (Pages 69 - 70)

Barbara Bath

To discuss the letter received from Edward Timpson.

- 8. Housing Under-Occupancy Rules: Foster Carers, Prospective Adopters and Prospective Special Guardians (10 mins)** (Pages 71 - 76)

Barbara Bath

To note the letter attached from Edward Timpson and to receive the analysis as to its likely impact for our services and carers based on current numbers and experiences.

- 9. Beyond All Limits (10 mins)**

Anthony Moorcroft

To receive the DVD – Beyond All Limits from the Golden Raven Production Company starring children and young people from Lancashire.

- 10. Policies (10 mins)** (Pages 77 - 92)

Mike Sunderland and Diane Booth

The Board is asked to consult on the following policies:

Delegation of Authority - Mike

University Fees - Diane

Staying Put - Diane

- 11. Customer Feedback Service Annual Report (10 mins)**

Chantel Finley

To receive the annual report.

- 12. Independent Support for Care Leavers (10 mins)** (Pages 93 - 96)

Suzanne Cheng

To provide an update and suggested way forward following last year's Friends 4 U pilot.

- 13. Residential Care and Fostering (10 mins)**

Louise Mackender de Cari

To provide an update and hear the Board's views.

- 14. Health Complaints Advocacy Launch (10 mins)**

Stuart Chaplin, Children's Society

To receive a powerpoint on what the service offers.

15. Any Other Business (5 mins)

County Councillor Pryn

To receive any other business.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Pryn

Thursday, 5 December 2013 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (former Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Information Item

17. Grant Funding Applications

(Pages 97 - 106)

To note the attached document.

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th April, 2013 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Tony Winder	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Carolyn Evans	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Stan Leadbetter	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services, LCC
Kathryn, Kris, Maggie Mark and Michelle	- Representing the Children in Care Council (LINX)

Co-opted members

Katherine Ashworth	- representing Young People's Service, LCC
Ismail Karolia	- Ambassador for Young People
Sue Parr	- representing The Virtual School, LCC
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing Health
Debbie Ross	- Primary Care Trust
Catherine Poole	- Children's Social Care

Other Attendees

Mark Elliott	- Governance and Project Support Team, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, LCC
Louise Mackender de Cari	- Strategic Integrated Service Development Team, LCC
Joanna Hunt	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Brenda Corlett	- Parent Partnership Team, LCC
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Joan Bill	- Parent Partnership Team, LCC
Cathy Trengove	- Barnardos
Faye Woodall	- Barnardos

1. Introductions and Apologies

Introductions around the room were made and apologies were noted from County Councillors Case, Kay, Mein and Taylor and Marc Bentley, Diane Booth, Lin Fisher and Debbie Nolan-Plunket.

2. Notes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2013

The notes of the meeting held on 7 February 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meeting held on 7 February 2013

In respect of minute 75 the Board was informed that it was not pursuing the holding of the Celebration event at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. The Board noted that it was hoped to hold the event at Woodlands later in the year.

With regard to minute 79 it was noted that Tony Morrissey, the Young People's Service and Brendan Lee would be taking the Young Inspector's Programme forward.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

The Board noted an issue raised by CC Evans regarding one of the young people at The Willows and their application for university.

CC Winder, as Chair, updated the Board on a number of issues.

Regarding the Urban Patch, as it has completed its tour of Lancashire, it had yet to be decided where it was to be placed permanently. It was agreed that the location chosen should be one that the young people are happy with.

Tony also told the Board about a children and young people conference he had attended in Manchester. The conference discussed the current Children and Families Bill and he had been a panel member on the Question Time session.

As it was the final meeting before the county council elections Tony thanked people for their contribution to the Board. He thanked the members for their contribution, Louise Taylor, Marc Bentley, the governance team and all officers past and present for the hard work in making the Corporate Parenting Board what it is.

Reflecting on some of the achievements of the board he particularly felt proud of the Golden Rules, the Action Plan, the Pledge, the Ambitions document and the A-Z guide.

5. What Does Our Performance Tell Us?

Louise Mackender de Cari took the Board through the key messages circulated with the agenda.

The Board felt there was lots of good news in the messages.

6. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council)

The young people gave the Board an overview of the work that they had been doing in the three area groups.

The Board noted in particular that a newsletter was being prepared which would be circulated by email and that it was hoped to appoint a CiCC apprentice in the near future.

7. Parent Partnership Service

Brenda and Joan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the Parent Partnership Service.

The Board noted the strong links that the service had with schools and agreed to strengthen them by the circulation of the information leaflet to the Chairs of Governors of all Lancashire schools.

The Board agreed to include a link to the Parent Partnership Service on the Board's webpages.

8. Friends 4 U

Louise Mackender de Cari presented a report giving an update on the Friends 4 U trial project.

The Board noted that the report identified there was still a role for volunteer/mentor support for some care leavers in Lancashire, but not all. It was felt that there appeared to be merit in adopting a targeted approach to young people who are commencing their transition to becoming to become care leavers in 6-9 months time and therefore still currently in foster homes or residential care. This approach would offer an option to engage and for a positive relationship with the volunteer/mentor to be established prior to them leaving care. It was felt that this approach could be adopted across the county, with a targeted focus on young people with little or no established family relationships or networks.

It was agreed that funding will need to be identified to progress this, and options for this would be brought back to the Board. A review of the numbers of care leavers who might benefit for this will also need to be conducted. There is opportunity to secure additional value by linking to existing provision across Lancashire, e.g. East Lancashire befriending Service and the Lancashire Volunteer Hubs.

9. Children in Care - Educational Progress

Sue Parr took the Board through the PowerPoint presentation relating to the educational attainment of CLA.

The Board emphasised the importance of sharing this information with as many interested parties as possible.

In response to a specific question as to what schools spend the money that is allocated in respect of CLA it was felt that it may not be being discussed at the PEP meetings. The young people were encouraged to put this question back to school governing bodies and school leadership teams.

10. Placements

The Board undertook an activity relating to what expectations young people have at various stages in their life. The Board, in groups, considered what young people would want to have achieved by the age of 5, 5-11, 11-16 and 16+.

The Board's considerations are attached to these notes.

The Board noted that Barnardos would be undertaking further work on this topic with a view to it forming a focus of a future Board meeting.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday, 17 June 2013 at 6.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

12. Grant Funding Applications

The current position regarding applications was noted.

Minute Item 10

AT THE AGE OF 16+ I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ACHIEVED/ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Funding for hobbies and interests as young people approaching Leaving Care.
2. To go on a holiday.
3. To go to a concert/see a live band.
4. Pursue a hobby.
5. Career guidance/support.
6. Strong, consistent relationship with supportive adults who give the right information.
7. Stability of Social Worker.
8. Practical skills, cooking, DIY.
9. Access to easy transport.
10. Go away on your own with friends.
11. Have a part-time job.
12. Learn to drive.
13. Travel on public transport independently.
14. Go abroad.
15. Open a bank account.
16. Do your own washing.
17. Join a group.

AT THE AGE OF 11-16 YEARS OLD I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

- West End show.
- Holiday with friends.
- See the countryside/seaside/camping.
- Health checks – not to be singled out.
- Concerts live.
- Train journey/aeroplane/use public transport independently.
- Go to pictures with friends/on own.
- Restaurants or family pubs – meals.
- 'Outdoors' – adrenaline/challenging activities.
- School trips.
- Shopping.
- Learning basic life skills.
- Part-time job.
- 'Pets'.
- Pocket money.
- Access to social networking/privacy/own smartphone or laptop.
- Swimming.
- Savings account.
- Ears pierced? + others?
- Experiment with fashion/hairstyle/dyed hair (school might have something to say on this!!)
- Boyfriend/girlfriend.
- Things do change @14 yrs.
- 5 GCSE good grades minimum – recognising this is a high benchmark for some and not a fair expectation.
- Sleepovers/parties.
- Hobbies (that might need paying for).
- Flexible on restrictions as they get older, eg curfew later.
- Bedtimes/getting up times – change.
- Access to your birth family where this is ok/wanted.
- Visit an art exhibition.
- Watch live sport.
- Go abroad.
- Bake a cake.
- Have a hobby.
- Do your own washing.
- Visit an art exhibition.
- Travel on public transport independently.
- Do your own washing.
- Have a phone.
- Go to a party.
- Open a bank account.
- Cook meal for family/friends.
- Get advice on careers.

AT THE AGE OF 5-11 YEARS OLD I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Climb a tree.
- Build a den.
- Sleep in tent with friends in back garden.
- Swimming lessons.
- Ride a bike.
- Swim in sea.
- Join a club.
- Theatre.
- Cinema.
- Run an errand, eg shop/post box.
- Annual holiday.
- Pet.
- Fly a kite.
- Build a snowman.
- Musical instrument.
- Hold baby.
- Roll down a hill.
- Know how to cross road safely.
- Read (Harry Potter!) by 11.
- Have a birthday party/reverse.
- Friend for tea/reverse.
- Sleepover.
- Midnight feast.
- Have a phone.
- Bake a cake.
- Learn how to play a sport.
- Set your own bedtime.
- Have pocket money.
- Watch live sport.
- Have a hobby.

BY THE AGE OF 5 YEARS OLD I WOULD WISH TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Reading a story at bedtime.
- Seeing relatives and family members.
- The small things: going to the park/using manners.
- Playing.
- Colouring.
- Be able to swim.
- Birthday parties.
- Learning to ride a bike.
- Education.
- Pre-school.
- Toys.
- Learning how to write.
- Speak/communicate.
- Tidying up.
- Creating opportunities to interact with others.
- Eat with a knife and fork.
- Cardboard boxes – making a den.
- Cooking.
- Football.
- Crawling, walking, running, jumping.
- Going to the toilet on own.
- Ball parks.
- Aware of own personal hygiene.
- Holiday/beach/picnic/making sandcastles.
- Wide open spaces.
- Paddling in the sea/river.
- Love/affection/feeling safe and secure.
- Animals/nature – visiting zoos/farms.
- Introduce to technology.
- Friends.
- Listening.
- Go to sleep on time.
- Sleep in own bed.
- Bake a cake.
- Join a group.

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 17th June, 2013 at 6.00 pm in The Duke of Lancaster Room (Formerly Cabinet Room 'C') - County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Sue Pryn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Lorraine Beavers	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Chris Henig	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Gina Dowding	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
Kathryn, Kris, Maggie, Chloe, Mark and Michelle	- Representing Children in Care Council (LINX)

Co-opted members

Katherine Ashworth	- representing Young People's Service, Lancashire County Council
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Bethany Dyer	- Barnardos
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Ismail Karolia	- Ambassador for Young People
Sue Parr	- representing The Virtual School, Lancashire County Council
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG

Other Attendees

County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Anne Cheetham	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Keith Sedgewick	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson	- Lancashire County Council
Mark Elliott	- Governance and Project Support Team, Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, Lancashire County Council

1. Appointment of Chair

The Board noted that County Councillor Sue Pryn is the Chair of the Board for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

2. Introductions and Apologies

Introductions around the room were made and apologies were noted from Louise Mackender de Cari, Debbie Nolan-Plunkett.

3. Notes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2013

Given the county councillor nominations were still to be agreed the notes of the meeting held on 18 April 2013 were noted at this stage and would be approved at the next business meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meeting held on 18 April 2013

There were no matters arising from the meeting on 18 April 2013.

5. Membership, Terms of Reference and Golden Rules

The Board was asked to take the terms of reference and golden rules away and look at them. Members on the Board should see if they make sense and are appropriate for the way the Board would like to work.

6. Member Profiles

The Board noted that members would be asked to complete a Member Profile form.

7. What Does Our Performance Tell Us?

Ismail took the Board through the report circulated with the agenda. Please see attached an updated version of that report.

The Board raised questions relating to the following topics:

- Access to health assessments and dentists
- The suicide rates of CLA and those leaving care compared to those children not in care.

In respect of the second topic Nicola Bamford believed she would be able to get precise figures up to the age of 18. After this age the figures are more difficult to obtain.

8. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council)

The young people took the Board through a presentation on the work they had been doing recently.

The Board thanked the young people for the work the CiCC are doing.

9. Introduction From Each Service Represented on the Board

A number of short presentations were made to share with the Board covering what areas of work they are involved in and how they link with CLA.

A question was raised in respect of health as to whether the providers of services should be included as co-opted members on the Board. The Board agreed to look at its membership as part of its review of its Terms of Reference.

Given the complex and detailed changes that the health economy is going through it was felt that a comprehensive service report should be brought to a future meeting.

Following Mark Hudson's presentation on the IRO service he offered the opportunity to meet with the service and all were encouraged to contact Mark. He could be contacted via email at Mark.Hudson@lancashire.gov.uk or telephone 07887 831216.

10. Children's Rights Annual Care Monitor 2013

Diane encouraged all to promote the request for information from the Children's Rights director for England.

11. Governing Body - CPB Awareness

Bob updated the Board on the possibility of getting a slot on the Governors' Conference later in the year. The Board felt it would be good if a couple of young people were available to attend the Conference.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be the young people's led meeting will be held on 25 July 2013 from 1.00pm-3.00pm in Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston.

13. Grant Funding Applications

The Board noted the current position in respect of the Grant Funding Applications.

14. Social Workers in Schools Project

The Board noted the information included in the agenda regarding this project.






Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report June 2013

Summary for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

- The number of children looked after continues to rise across Lancashire.
- The introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013 has significantly reduced the number of contacts passing through Care Connect.
- The number of initial and core assessment completed has risen across Lancashire.
- Re-referral rate has improved to a lower rate.
- Placement stability for children looked after has improved.
- Attainment for children looked after remains low in comparison to their peers.
- Attendance of children looked after at primary school is good, and attendance of children looked after at secondary school has improved.
- The number of Adoptions has increased for the 2nd year running to 75 adoptions.
- Special Guardianship Orders and Residence Orders have both risen in the past year.
- The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation remains lower than the expected level.
- The number of care leavers in education, employment or training has risen, but is still below the expected level.
- A record number of care leavers commenced first year university courses this year.

Activity for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Number of Children Looked After

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
1324	1476	1492	Reduce	
				

The number of Children Looked After in Lancashire continues to rise. There is no obvious reason for the rise in the number of CLA, other than improved identification of those in need (as described below). There is no particular cohort that has seen a rise, with more babies and infants being taken into care, as well as a larger number of primary school aged and older children being taken into care also.

Service Activity

The table below shows the service activity over the last 5 years. Contacts are the number of contacts to the call centre which do not proceed any further. Referrals are contacts which become a valid referral to Children's Social Care. Initial assessments are carried out as a result of a referral, and if further investigation is needed, a core assessment will be undertaken.

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13
Contacts <i>per month</i>	--	998	1284	1525	773 **
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1470	1389	1175	1370	1487 **
Initial Assessments	8636	10071	9891	11288	11474 **
Core Assessments	2932	4246	5019	5901	6081 **

** May 2013

The call centre operated by Care Connect has had success in filtering out the contacts from referrals, hence the rise in the number of contacts and the fall in the number of referrals, however there has been rise in the number of referrals this year, possibly due to an increased number of referrals from the police which now account for 2 out of every 5 referrals, which is above the national average rate of referral by Police. Since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013, a large number of contacts from the Police have been passed to MASH rather than going through Care Connect, hence the number of contacts has fallen to below 800 in April and May.

There is a link between the rise in the number of children looked after and the number of assessments being carried out; The service is now carrying out more than double the number of core assessments than it did 5 years ago. As a result of carrying out more assessments, it is likely that more children have been identified as being in need of care services resulting in a rise in the number of children looked after.

Re-Referral Rate

A number of referrals that the authority receives are re-referrals; that is a child or young person has been referred to Children's Social Care once and is being referred again. As the service should be meeting the needs of the child or young person first time around, a high re-referral rate is a negative indicator of the service provided although a low percentage is acceptable as a number of re-referrals are appropriate to be re-referred.


	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13
Re-Referrals	379	353	272	281	488 **
Re-Referral %	25.8%	25.4%	23.2%	20.5%	24.7%
	↗	↘	↘	↘	↗

** May 2013

Since 2010, there has been a clear shift in the rate of re-referrals in Lancashire, from a normal level of around 25% of referrals being re-referrals to around 20% of referrals being re-referrals. This is possibly due to the introduction of the Contact and Referrals Team (CART), now known as Care Connect, which successfully filter contacts and referrals to ensure that each receives an appropriate response. Re-referral rates were higher than expected in April and May 2013 and this will be monitored over the next few months.

Stability of Placements of CLA: Number of Moves


This indicator looks at how many children looked after had 3 or more placements during the past year, expressed as a percentage of all 12 month period

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
9.5%	8.7%	8.1%	9.5%	
↘	↘	↘	✓	

Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after. Less children than ever have multiple placement moves (more than 3 placements), but further improvement is possible (the percentage was just 7.2% in September 2012).

Stability of Placements of CLA: Length of Placements

This indicator looks at how many children looked after have being in their current placement for 2 years or longer, expressed as a percentage of all children looked after placements.

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
71.7%	73.4%	73.2%	69.0%	
↗	↗	↘	✓	


Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after. More children than ever have long placements of 2 years or more, as opposed to series of short placements.

Outcomes for Children Looked After

Outcomes data is usually from schools, colleges or university, hence the figures are stated alongside academic year (2011/12 is the academic year started 1st August 2011 and ended on 31st July 2012) rather than financial year (1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012).

Educational Attainment of Children Looked After



The key indicator used to measure attainment is the number of children and young people who get 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths:

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
18.6%	11.9%	12.9%	18.0%	
↘	↘	↗	×	

In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after fell significantly in 2010/11, although it is worth noting that each group of children looked after are different, and the performance can vary significantly by different year groups. In 2011/12, performance was better than in 2010/11, but still behind the target.

Attendance at School by Children Looked After



Attendance at school is expressed as a percentage of all possible school sessions attended by all children looked after.

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Primary	96.2%	96.3%	96.2%	96.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/>	↔	↗	↘	✓	
Secondary	92.7%	92.5%	94.3%	96.0%	
<input type="checkbox"/>	↔	↘	↗	×	

CLA attendance at primary school has remained consistent at 96% which is above the target set. CLA attendance at secondary school is lower than at primary school at 92% but rose in the last school year to 94% which is good progress, although lower than the target.

Exclusions from School of Children Looked After





Exclusions from school are included as a pure number of children looked after either permanently excluded or on a fixed term exclusion.

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Permanent	3	1	4	0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	↗	↘	↗	×	
Fixed Term	93	98	130	70	
<input type="checkbox"/>	↗	↗	↗	×	

The target for permanent exclusions is for no child looked after to be permanently excluded from school, but there have been 4 in the last academic year, although only 1 in the previous year to that. The number of fixed term exclusions has risen and was at a high level of 130 fixed term exclusions in the last academic year, nearly double the target.

Adoption and Permanence









Adoption Orders

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
52	69	75	#N/A	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	

196 children or young people were adopted over the last 3 years, which represents 13% of all children or young people who ceased to be looked after. 75 adoptions in 2012/13 was good performance compared to the previous two years.

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Residence Orders (RO)

Alternative to adoption, but providing permanence, is the SGO or RO, which is expressed as percentage of all care leavers.






	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
SGO	4.9	4.3	8.5	#N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	
RO	8.5	8.6	9.6	#N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	

Both SGO and RO rates have increased in 2011/12, meaning more care leavers than ever are becoming subject to the orders, which is a success.

Outcomes for Care Leavers

Care leavers in suitable accommodation (Old NI 147)






The percentage of care leavers at age 19 that are living in "suitable accommodation".

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
92.6%	80.2%	80.3%	89.0%	
				

The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has declined from a high level in 2010/11 to a lower level in 2011/12 and performance in 2012/13 was similar. There is no obvious pattern to the lower performance, with some care leavers being in various unsuitable accommodations such as custody/prison, temporary lodgings or staying with friends. The number of care leavers not in contact with the authority isn't too high; a high number not in contact can contribute to lower performance.

Care leavers in education, employment or training (old NI 148)





The percentage of care leavers at 19 who are engaged in education, training or employment.

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
71.1%	48.4%	55.7%	67.0%	
				

Performance was good in 2010/11, but declined sharply in 2011/12, possibly due to the poor economic climate at the time. Performance has improved in 2012/13, but is some way below the expected levels, and also is below targeted performance.

From this April 2013, Lancashire County Council will be required to contact Care Leavers around their 20th and 21st Birthday as well as the current requirement of contact around their 19th birthday, to check on their progress, accommodation, education, employment or training. This will be reportable from April 2014.

Care leavers at University

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
--	25	37	30	
--				

In academic year 2011/12 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 24 first year students. Care leavers are studying a wide range of courses including degrees in Maths, Science, Law, Business, Nursing, Psychology and Criminology. The new intake for 2013/14 academic year will be counted in September.

Children Looked After need to be listened to

LIFE FOR US IN CARE IN LANCASHIRE



Being in care: What is different for us?



It's important to remember that...

... "everyone's in care for different reasons" and that "everyone's an individual".

All children and young people have different needs but for those that are in care there are some things that are different. Our experiences are different and we have different needs.

Some things about Children Looked After (CLA) that maybe people do not think about...

Your home or placement:

- More than one placement.
- Some people might feel like it is not their home.
- Living with other young people.
- Different area to where you grew up.

The people:

- Lots of people involved in making decisions for you.
- Sometimes we are the last to find out important information.
- It is not your family – someone is paid to look after you.
- You do not always have strong relationships with the people in your life.

Rules:

- Some people need CRB checks for your friends' parents.
- Photographs.

Leaving care:

- Moving into independence – feeling too young.
- Provision when leaving care is reduced.

Some other activities...



- Lancashire Youth Council:
 - The CiCC is now part of the youth council structure.
 - Young people from the CiCC attend campaign nights and represent CLA at the exec night and at cabinet.
- Young people from CiCC attend monthly PULSE meetings – The Health and Well-being board for young people in Lancashire
- Training of LCC staff.
- Interviewing new staff and volunteers.
- Commissioning e.g. choosing new residential units for CLA.

Some things we like...



We like being involved in decisions made about us.

Having the CiCC now is good as it gives the opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard.

A young person said, "I'm proud to be part of the CiCC, I have met some great people and my confidence is growing. I like having the opportunity to make a difference for all young people in care and leaving care".

Some things we want to change...

- “I know there are rules... but reasons behind decisions are not always made clear”.
- More support when leaving care.
- The CPB is good but difficult for young people to understand but we like that young people are able to be involved.
- Children and young people would like more child friendly information.

LINX -
Listen
Involve
Negotiate
Express



**Believe in
children**
 **Barnardo's**

Barnardo's Registered Charity
Nos. 216250 and SC037605

What have we been doing?



April- June 2013

Visitors to LINX:

**Daniel Smithson - Impact and Quality
Reviewing Officer from One Connect**

Mark Warren – CAMHS Coordinator

**Sam Gorton and Anthony Moorcroft – Life
Stories**

April- June 2013

Activities:



Attended Preston Youth Zone Plus meeting to meet with architect AQA Accredited

Attended Lancashire Youth Council Meetings

Attended PULSE Health & Well-Being Board meetings

Participated in Senior Leadership Training with Louise Taylor

**Half term activity days for Primary and
Secondary groups**

**Sat on interview panels for Barnardo's
leadership staff**

Attended Young Inspector Training

**Attended All Party Parliamentary
Group Meeting at Westminster in
London**

Why I come to LINX

I have chosen to come and spend time with Linx and Barnardo's because I have lived in care for over two years so I have to experience how much care is about I would like to give it to other young people my point of view what is like to live in care. I have come to Linx to make some more new friends with the other young people. I would listen to other young people and the Barnardo's staff and take their ideas in and I would answer any questions when someone asked me. Also I like to get involved myself because I like to more things about living in care and try to get other people to understand what it is like about the care system. I love spending time with the other young people and the Barnardo's staff by doing activities, meeting and going out on tips because it me to learn more and understand what other young people have to say and also I would know some more new people.

Corporate Parenting Board

June 2013

Childrens Social Care

What do we do?

Front door

Children, young people, families and professionals such as school teachers, police, health visitors etc can ask for help.

Decision is made either :

- a. Should that help come from somewhere else if so give advice or send request for help somewhere else.
- b. A social worker needs to make a plan with a child / young person and their family to help them.

Children's Assessment and Support Team

A social worker meets with children / young people and their family and gathers information to make a plan of support.

The Plan

A Children in Need Plan

Help may be given to children, young people and their families where children and young people have not been significantly hurt in any way.

Little Jimmy lives with his mum and three brothers, mum is not well and little Jimmy will not do as he is told. Little Jimmy's older brother Tommy keeps running away and will not go to school. School have tried to help but everyone is concerned because things are not getting any better.

The plan might be:

- I. 1-1 time with the children to listen to their concerns and worries.
- II. 1-1 time with mum to listen to her worries and get her help from her doctor.
- III. Visit to dad to ask him to help mum out and give her a break – visit to granny to ask her to help.
- IV. Plan for a slow return to school for Tommy and tackle the bullying he has been suffering.
- V. A family meeting to help the family solve the problems themselves

Different workers from different agencies help with the plan, social worker, health visitor, family support worker and others

A Child Protection Plan

Child protection plans are needed when children / young people have been hurt in some way and their plan needs to be more intense. It needs to protect them and needs to make sure that parents / carers understand that if things do not get better it might mean that the child / young person can no longer live with them.

Usually there is not just one reason why a child / young person needs a child protection plan, it is usually for a number of reasons:

- a. Physical injury.
- b. Sexual abuse.
- c. Not going to school.
- d. No food, bed, gas, electric.
- e. Parents/carers use drugs too much
- f. Feel scared.
- g. Are very mixed up.
- h. Have no friends.
- i. Do scary things to themselves, take too many risks.
etc etc

A Children Looked After Plan

Sometimes children and young people can no longer live at home, so we need to 'look after' them in some other way.

- a. With another family member.
- b. In foster care.
- c. In residential care.

Sometimes we need to go to court to get the judge to allow us to help and protect children and young people. Sometimes children / young people are adopted.

In all cases we try to find forever families but for some young people that is not the right plan.

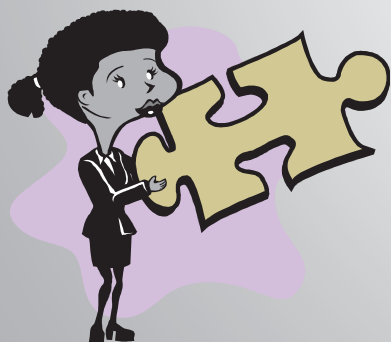
A Leaving Care Plan

Once a young person is no longer looked after (18) we then help and support them with a leaving care plan.

That includes help with housing, education, independence skills etc.

Dr Nicola Bamford
Designated Dr for CLA

Debbie Ross
Designated Nurse for
CLA



HEALTH



WHAT DO WE DO

- ❖ Work with people delivering health care to children and advise the people who pay for it what they need to do to improve it
- ❖ Advise other agencies on health matters
- ❖ Train and make sure staff understand what they need to do when they work with children who are looked after

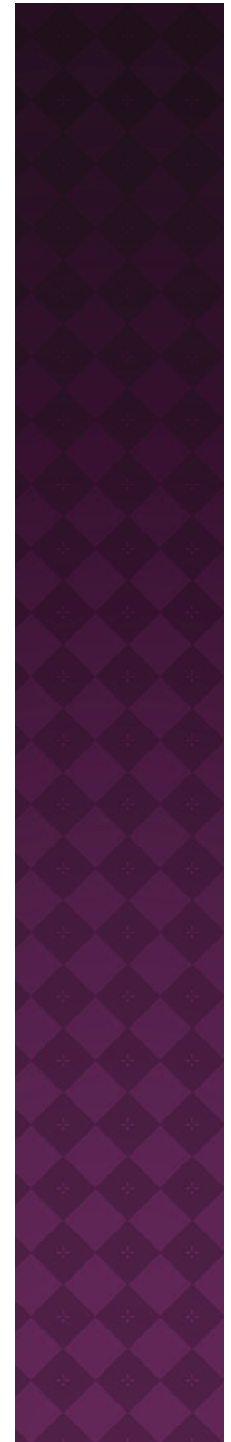


HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE CPB

- ❖ Try to help people understand how health problems can affect all areas of a child's life and how unaddressed health problems can prevent a child from reaching their potential

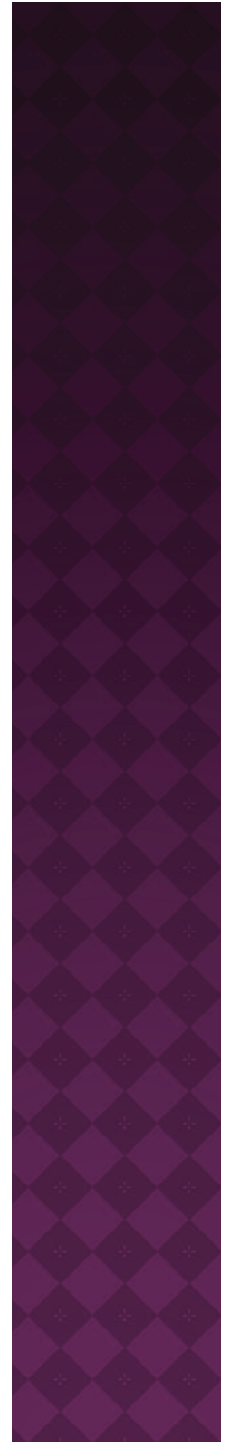
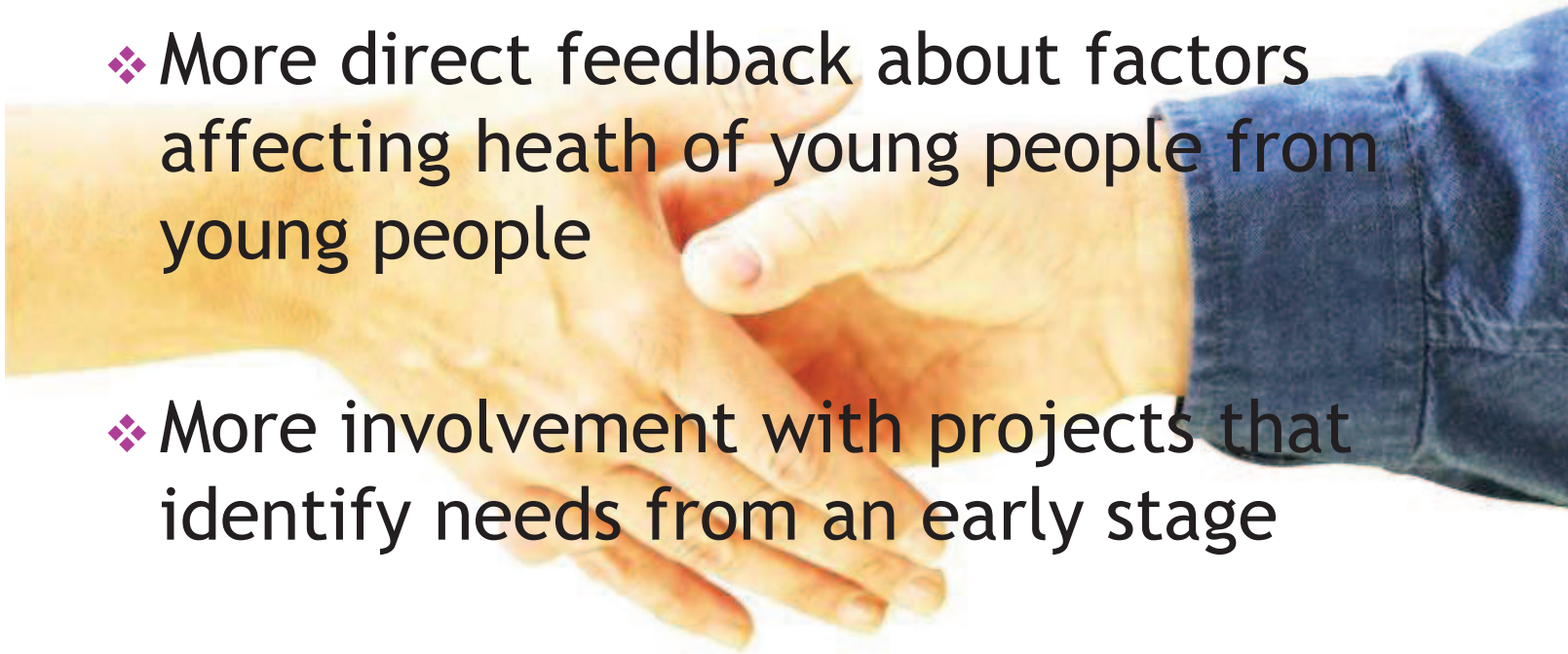


- ❖ Try to help people understand what is happening in health for children who are looked after
- ❖ Can take worries back to people who need to know about them

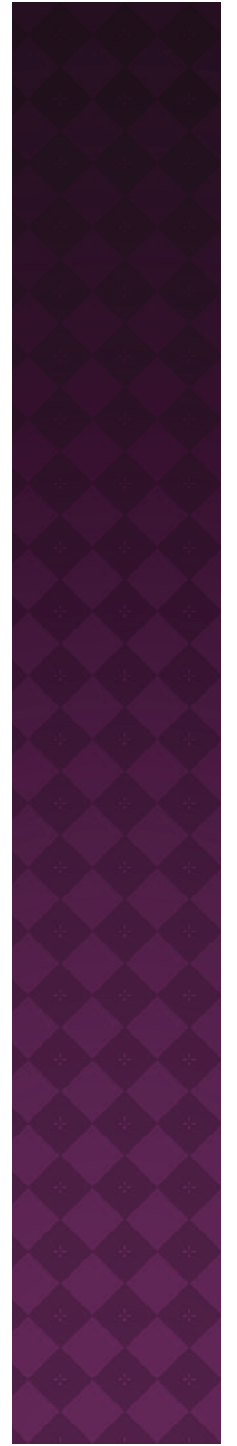


WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO

- ❖ More direct feedback about factors affecting health of young people from young people
- ❖ More involvement with projects that identify needs from an early stage



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO DO FOR YOU?



AND FINALLY.....

Any Questions



IRO's

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS

So, who are we?

- We are a team of 3 managers and 24 Independent reviewing officers.
- We are based all around the County of Lancashire.
- We are required by law to do the job we do.
- We have to have been qualified as social workers for at least 5 years before we can become an Independent Reviewing Officer

What do we do?

- Independent reviewing officers oversee the care plan of every young person who is looked after in Lancashire. We chair all meetings relating to the young person.
- Independent reviewing officers oversee child protection plans of all young people who are felt to be at risk.
- Independent reviewing officers can challenge the Local Authority if they feel something is not right.

How do we do it?

- Every child who comes into care receives a letter from the manager advising them who their Independent Reviewing Officer is , giving them their phone number and e-mail address
- Young people are encouraged to contact their IRO and can use text e-mail phone or visit to do this.
- Every young person has a review of their care plan at least twice a year. We chair those meetings and look at all areas of a young person's life.
- Young people are encouraged to take a full part in their meetings and are always encouraged to attend, contribute and meet with their Independent Reviewing Officer before the review, and throughout the time between reviews.
- We try to ensure a young person has just one Independent Reviewing Officer for all the time they spend in care or subject to a child protection plan.

We try to ensure.

- A young person who is in care or subject to a child protection plan is:
- Healthy.
- Safe
- Able to enjoy and achieve
- Able to make a positive contribution to their community
- Able to achieve economic well being through raising aspirations and education.

The VIRTUAL SCHOOL for CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER:

**Working Together to
Ensure Educational
Success for Children
and Young People
Looked After :**



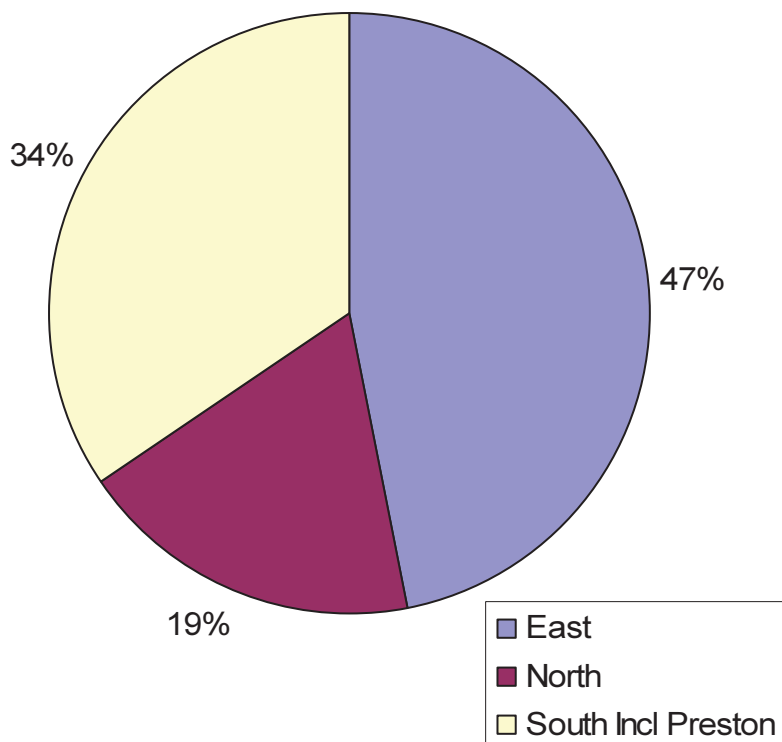
Presented by Virtual School for Children Looked After
www.lancashire.gov.uk

ACERS Virtual School for Children Looked After

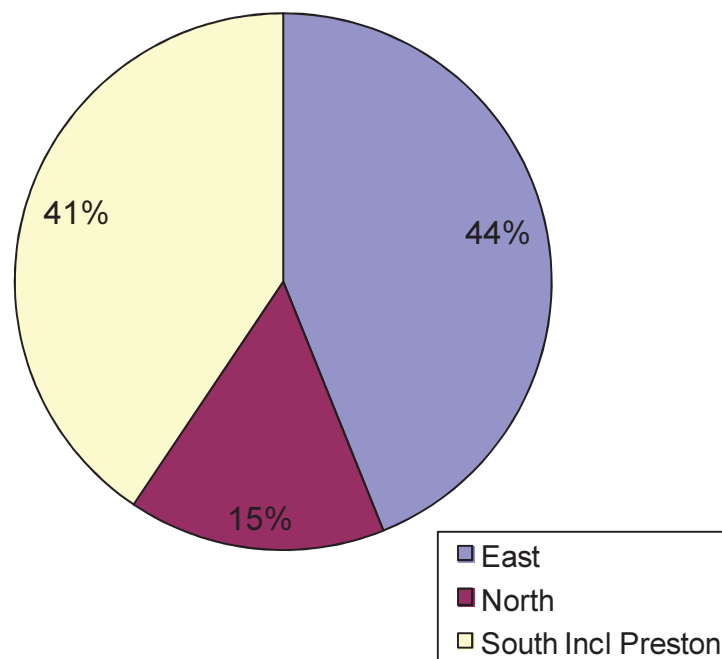
- Sue Parr: Head of Virtual School for CLA
- Mark Robson: Education Consultant - East
- Elaine Roberts: Education Consultant - South
- Chris Berry: Education Consultant – North
- Kath Metcalfe: Education Consultant – Out of Authority
- Alison Brown: Business Support Officer

Children Looked After by Locality/Area

School Age



Pre-School Age



No of YP in schools	Yr Grp															Grand Total
	Pre	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
East	221	27	27	24	27	44	29	36	38	41	59	43	48	63	26	753
BURNLEY	63	4	11	9	12	13	11	10	5	10	17	11	13	15	8	212
HYND/RIBBLEVA	71	7	2	8	4	15	7	6	14	9	18	12	14	24	9	220
PENDLE	69	13	9	4	9	12	8	11	7	14	13	15	11	19	6	220
ROSSENDALE	18	3	5	3	2	4	3	9	12	8	11	5	10	5	3	101
North	62	5	8	6	12	5	7	5	10	22	22	12	23	20	9	228
FYLDE/WYRE	17	1	3	1	5	2	3	2	1	9	11	6	16	6	8	91
LANCASTER	45	4	5	5	7	3	4	3	9	13	11	6	7	14	1	137
South	126	19	26	27	34	23	16	17	28	20	35	29	40	40	17	497
CHORL/SOUTH RIB	42	7	6	15	12	9	8	2	12	6	14	13	16	16	1	179
PRESTON	50	5	10	4	12	10	6	9	9	10	12	11	14	15	9	186
WEST LANCASHIRE	34	7	10	8	10	4	2	6	7	4	9	5	10	9	7	132
Grand Total	409	51	61	57	73	72	52	58	76	83	116	84	111	123	52	1478

MARCH 2013 : 424 CLA in Primary Schools

470 CLA in Secondary Schools

175 CLA in Further Education

Schools and Children Looked After (CLA)

- **1069 School aged children 4 – 19yr**
- There are **647** schools in Lancashire
- **276** schools have **894** CLA on roll
- **158** of Lancashire CLA are educated in schools outside Lancashire
- But we also educate **224 CLA from other Local Authorities**
- But the numbers change on a daily basis !
- **67% CLA with SEN**

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL:

- ❑ Ensures that Children Looked After in Lancashire are not falling behind or underachieving within education:-
- ❑ Ensures that Children Looked After have opportunities to participate in a activities which will enhance and improve not only their educational attainments and achievements , but will add to their emotional , social and behavioural well being.
- ❑ Monitors the progress of Children in Care by visiting schools, residential children's homes and sometimes children's foster parents , and talking to the young people themselves and their social workers. This way we make sure Children Looked After have everything they need to enjoy school and achieve to the best of their ability

What does the Virtual School for CLA do?

Promotes the Educational Achievements of all CLA to anyone who will listen – and those who don't want to listen!

- **Liaise and work with** DFE , County Councillors , Children's Social Care , all CLA carers , social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers , IDSS (SEN) , School Advisers , Educational Psychologists, staff and teachers in schools, school governors, and colleagues in health and CAMHS
- **Provide training** to Designated Teachers for CLA in schools, all CLA carers and Social workers, to ensure that all of the above have a clear understanding of the Educational system , and how to **actively** promote the Education of CLA
- **Provide plans and advice** on how to ensure that every individual CLA receives the educational support needed to be successful, through the production of a detailed Personal Education Plan (PEP) and **to provide 'extra' funding via the Personal Education Plan Support Allowance (PEPSA)** .
- **Track** Educational Attainment and Achievements of CLA across Lancashire to provide data for analysis , so that we can make changes where they are needed.

Funding Streams to Support PEP:

- Pupil Premium
- SEN Funding (in School)
- SEN Funding (Child's Statement)
- Bursaries
- Carers
- PEPSA
- C28

Initiation and contribution to PEP

from Social Worker

PEP

Contribution to and agreement of Educational targets on PEP:

**with Carers
(Foster, residential or parents)**

Individual Educational Targets should be evaluated and new targets set by Designated Teacher and CHILD

Virtual School Funding:

- **Personal Education Plan Support Allowance (PEPSA)** is available but not an entitlement (criteria applies):-
 - ✓ Up to £400 additional funding for any CLA who is significantly underachieving in school e.g. 1 to 1 tuition after school/at home
 - ✓ Up to £200 additional funding to help address any emotional, social and behavioural difficulties via activities outside school
 - ✓ £2000 Bursary (one off) for any CLA accepted on a Higher Education/ Degree Course.

PUPIL EDUCATION PLAN SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (PEPSA)

There is (at the moment) ,funding available within Virtual School to ensure that all Lancashire Children Looked After are able to access various activities and opportunities to enhance and improve their educational attainments and achievements : For Example

- ❖ Extra Teaching Support out of school for particular subject
 - areas e.g English , Maths , ICT etc
- ❖ Books to read at home and at sch
-
- ❖ Laptops for Secondary CLA
-
- ❖ Some types of sports equipment
- ❖ Some Materials and equipment
- ❖ Musical Instruments & tuition
- ❖ Extra Sports Coaching



Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 25th July, 2013 at 1.00 pm in The Duke of Lancaster Room (Formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Gina Dowding	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Chris Henig	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Steven Holgate	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynne	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
Kathryn, Kris, Callum, Maggie, Chloe and Mark	- Representing Children in Care Council (LINX)

Co-opted members

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Shona Cornthwaite	- CCG

Other Attendees

Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Stuart Chaplin	- Children's Rights Society
Mark Elliott	- Governance and Project Support Team, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, LCC
Joanna Hunt	- Children's Rights Society
Rosie Hunter	- National Voice Service
Louise Mackender de Cari	- Strategic Integrated Service Development Team, LCC

County Councillor	- Lancashire County Council
Matthew Tomlinson	
Faye Woodall	- Barnardos
Lisa Walsh	- Barnardos

1. Intros and games

The Board noted that Mark would be the Chair for this meeting and the young people led everyone present through a zombie game which enabled people to introduce themselves.

Following the game Mark got everybody back together to discuss the following topics.

2. Topic 1 - What LINX have been doing

Mark took the Board through a PowerPoint presentation on what LINX had been doing recently.

Everybody was pleased to note that Maggie Atkinson had spoken so highly of Lancashire and the work that is going on here.

Callum entertained the meeting with a rap he had done relating to a Rock FM advert they had been involved in.

Maggie and Kat updated the Board on various meetings they had attended.

Marc shared with the Board the experience of being involved in the recent Head of Children's Social Care interviews. Diane, as the successful applicant, complimented the young people of the professional way they conducted their panel. Diane also said it was the hardest bit of the interview!

The Hear by Rights handouts had been placed on the walls and Maggie and Kat fed back on that topic.

Finally a number of forthcoming events were shared, including the Children's Society in Lancashire's 'Speak Out Lancashire' event on 31 July 2013.

3. Topic 2 - CPB

The discussions from this topic were captured on the flipcharts.

4. Rosie Hunter - A National Voice

Rosie shared the work that had been done as part of the National Voice project.

Identified as good practice was when Corporate Parenting boards and CiCC come together and it was good to see this happening in Lancashire.

5. Topic 3 - Diamond Ranking

Mark and the young people split the Board into groups to consider the priorities and most important things for the Board to consider in the future.

These thoughts and priorities were captured on flipcharts.

These priorities would be worked up into the action plan for the Board for the year or so ahead.

6. Question time

There were no questions raised at this point.

7. AOB and Evaluations

The Young People directed the Board members to a flipchart on which people were to indicate how they felt things had gone at the meeting.

A large roll of paper was also available for people to comment on and all this information would be collated by LINX and circulated to the Board.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Young People were thanked for hosting such a lively and interactive meeting.

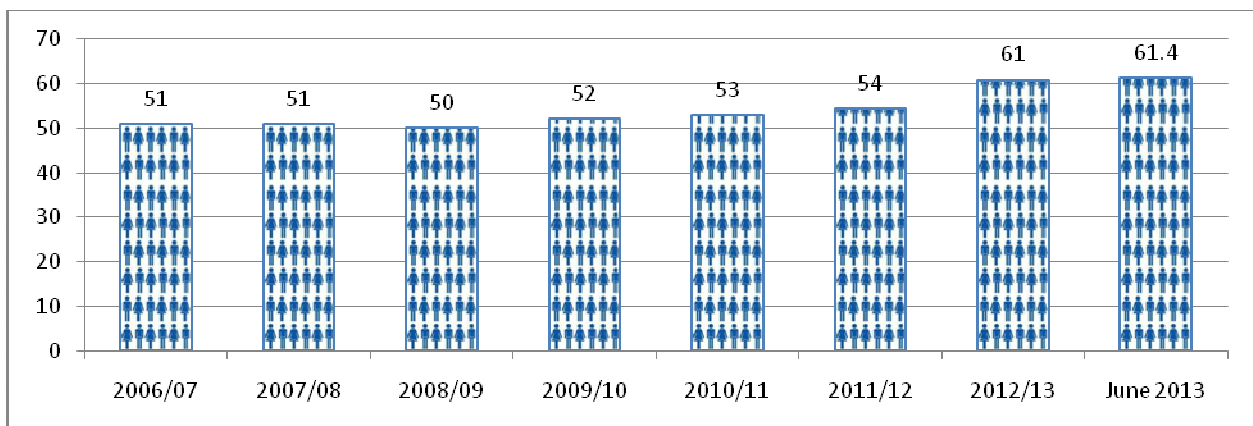
The Board noted that its next meeting was to be held on 12 September 2013.

Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report, September 2013

Activity for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Number of Children Looked After

- Out of 10,000 children and young people in Lancashire, **61** are currently looked after.
- This is higher than in previous years, and the number of children looked after in Lancashire continues to increase each month (1514 at the end of July 2013).
- There are more children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 59 out of 10,000 are currently looked after.
- There are less children looked after in Lancashire than the North West, 76 out of 10,000, and less than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours, 66 out of 10,000.



Comments:

Lancashire's number of children looked after continues to increase, and has for the first time risen above the England average. Information to be released at the end of September will show Lancashire's position compared to others as at 31st March and this information will be available at the next board meeting.

Service Activity

Service activity helps to explain the rise in the number of children looked after in Lancashire:

- The contact centre received more contacts and referrals than in previous years.
- As a result, the social work teams are carrying out more initial assessments with more children and young people than in previous years.
- The social work teams are also carrying out more core assessments than in previous years.
- With more children and young people than ever been identified for referral and assessment, more children looked after are being identified as a result.



	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	July 13
Contacts <i>per month</i>	--	998	1284	1525	995

Referrals <i>per month</i>	1470	1389	1175	1370	1840
Initial Assessments	8636	10071	9891	11288	4383
Core Assessments	2932	4246	5019	5901	1978

Comment:

There has been rise in the number of referrals this year, possibly due to an increased number of referrals from the police which now account for 4 out of every 10 referrals. Since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013, a large number of contacts from the Police have been passed to MASH rather than going through Care Connect.

Re-Referral Rate

A number of referrals that the authority receives are re-referrals; that is a child or young person has been referred to Children's Social Care once and is being referred again.

- Re-referral rates are continuing to decline which is good performance

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	July 2013
Re-Referrals	379	353	272	281	411
Re-Referral %	25.8%	25.4%	23.2%	20.5%	19.3%
	↗	↘	↘	↘	↘

Stability of Placements of CLA: Number of Moves



How many children looked after moved placement twice during the past year:

- Out of 100 children looked after, Lancashire targets to have less than 10 children looked after having to move twice or more during the year
- Latest information shows that only **8** out of 100 children looked have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target
- This is also an improvement on last year when 9 out of 100 children looked had to move twice or more during the year

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
9.5%	8.7%	8.1%	9.5%	😊
↘	↘	↘	✓	


Comments:

Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after. Fewer children than ever have more than 2 placement moves, but further improvement is possible (only 7 out 100 moved in September 2012).

Stability of Placements of CLA: Length of Placements

How many children looked after have being in their current placement for at least 2 years:

- Out of 100 children looked after, Lancashire targets to have more than 69 children looked after settled for a long time in their current placement
- Latest information shows that **73** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance and ahead of target
- Current performance is an improvement on performance from 2 years ago, and is similar performance to last year's performance

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
71.7%	73.4%	73.2%	69.0%	
↗	↗	↘	✓	

Comments:

Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after. More children than ever have long placements of 2 years or more, as opposed to series of short placements.

Outcomes for Children Looked After


Outcomes data from education is displayed by academic year rather than financial year.



Educational Attainment of Children Looked After

The key indicator used to measure attainment is the number of children and young people who get 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths:

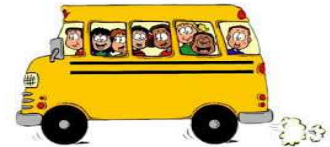
- Performance in 2011/12 is higher than last year with **13** out of 100 CLA achieving 5 A*-C
- CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people where 60 out 100 achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
18.6%	11.9%	12.9%	18.0%	
↘	↘	↗	✗	

Comment:

In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after improved in 2011/12, but remains below performance from 2009/10. Attainment by children looked after remains someway behind their peers with 60 out of 100 children and young people achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C inc English and Maths. The results from this summer (2012/13) will be available at the next board meeting.

Attendance at School by Children Looked After



Attendance at school is expressed as a percentage of all possible school sessions attended by all children looked after:

- Attendance in primary school was good with all children looked after only missing 4 out of every 100 days in school
- Attendance in secondary school was better than last year, with all children looked after only missing 6 out of every 100 days in school

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Primary	96.2%	96.3%	96.2%	96.0%	😊
	↔	↗	↘	✓	
Secondary	92.7%	92.5%	94.3%	96.0%	😊
	↔	↘	↗	✗	

Exclusions from School of Children Looked After

Exclusions from school are included as a pure number of children looked after either permanently excluded or on fixed term exclusion:

- In the last year there were 4 permanent exclusions of children looked after
- In the last year there were 130 fixed term exclusions of children looked after
- These are both high numbers and outside of the target set by corporate parenting board

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Permanent	3	1	4	0	☹️
	↗	↘	↗	✗	
Fixed Term	93	98	130	70	☹️
	↗	↗	↗	✗	

Comments:

Exclusions have risen in the last year, and are now at a high level ahead of the target set. This requires action, and a recovery statement should be requested by corporate parenting board.

Children Looked After in Young Offenders Institutions or Secure Units

- There are only a small number of children looked after placed in young offenders institutions or secure units, only 9 in the last year
- 3 out of 100 children looked after are involved with the youth offending teams, while less than 1 out of 100 children and young people are involved with youth offending teams
- Children looked after are 6 times more likely to be involved with youth offending teams than those who are not looked after

Children Looked After with an up-to-date Health and Dental Assessments

- 85 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment
- This is a lower level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year
- 76 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment
- This is a higher level of up-to-date dental assessments than in the previous year

Comments:

Lancashire is investing in the improvement of oral health through the Smile 4 Life campaign which has been running since 2010, and has been nationally acclaimed for its successes in raising awareness and improving oral health.



Adoption and Permanence

Adoption Orders

- 13 out of 100 children looked after are adopted each year for the last three years. This is 196 children looked after in total.
- The number of adoptions increased this year to 75 children looked after being adopted, higher than in previous years.



Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
52	69	75	N/A	😊
↘	↗	↗		

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Residence Orders (RO)

Special guardianship orders or residence orders are an alternative to adoption, but still provide children looked after with a permanent home:

- 9 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under special guardianship order in the last year, a big improvement on previous years
- 10 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under residence order in the last year, an improvement on previous years

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
SGO	4.9	4.3	8.5	N/A	😊
	↗	↘	↗		
RO	8.5	8.6	9.6	N/A	😊
	↗	↗	↗		

Comments:

Overall more children looked after than ever are being provided with a permanent home under adoption, special guardianship order or residence orders, almost 32 out of 100 children looked after in the last year which represents considerable success.

Outcomes for Care Leavers

Care leavers in suitable accommodation (Old NI 147)



The percentage of care leavers at age 19 that are living in "suitable accommodation":

- Out of 100 care leavers, 80 are currently in suitable accommodation
- This is lower than two years ago, when 93 out of 100 were in suitable accommodation

Comments:

The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has declined from a high level in 2010/11 to a lower level in 2011/12 and 2012/13. This is below the target of 89 out of 100.

Care leavers in education, employment or training (old NI 148)

The percentage of care leavers at 19 who are engaged in education, training or employment:

- 56 out of 100 care leavers are in education, training or employment in 2012/13, which is low performance but an improvement from last year
- The poor economy may be contributing to low performance at present

Previous Performance		Current Performance		Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13			
71.1%	48.4%	55.7%		67.0%	
↗	↘	↗		✘	

Comments:

Performance was good in 2010/11, but declined sharply in 2011/12, possibly due to the poor economic climate at the time. Performance has improved in 2012/13, but is some way below the expected levels, and also is below targeted performance.

Care leavers at University

- In 2010/11 there were 25 care leavers at university
- In 2011/12 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 24 first year students.





Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

2 May 2013

Dear Directors of Children's Services,

Foster carer recruitment and retention

I am writing to draw your attention to an exciting and innovative project that aims to provide new insight into the foster carer population and to help support local authorities to attract a broader range of people to fostering.


The Government is committed to supporting local authorities to recruit and retain the best foster carers to look after some of society's most vulnerable children. We have awarded a contract to the Fostering Network to develop materials to support local foster carer recruitment and to provide bespoke support for 25 local authorities between now and March 2015.

The Fostering Network is working with consultancy iMPower to deliver this work which will start with two surveys:

- a **benchmarking survey** which will gather and analyse recruitment data from local authorities, including data on enquiries and approvals. Local authorities will then be able to compare their performance against national benchmarks and identify areas for improvement.
- a **Values Modes survey** which will increase understanding of the motivations of the foster carer population in England. This will increase understanding of how to recruit carers for harder to place children and reach out to new foster carers.

I urge you to respond to the benchmarking survey, the greater the response rate the greater the value of the data. The Fostering Network will contact foster carers directly about the Value Modes survey, but please do encourage your foster carers to participate. The results of the surveys can be used by local authorities across the country and will inform the bespoke 1:1 support that the Fostering Network will provide for local authorities during 2013-15.

I know from my own family's experience that fostering can transform young lives for the better. I will be doing what I can to raise awareness of fostering during Foster Care Fortnight. I'm sure that you are all busy preparing for this important event too – I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely,


Edward Timpson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Agenda Item 8



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14 May 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

Housing under-occupancy rules: Foster carers, prospective adopters and prospective special guardians

As you will be aware, from 1 April 2013, the rules relating to size criteria were extended to individuals living in under-occupied social housing. This brings social housing tenants in line with those living in the private sector, whose housing benefit has been based on household size for a number of years. From this date, a reduction of 14% will apply to the eligible rent if the tenant is under-occupying by one bedroom and 25% if under-occupying by two or more.

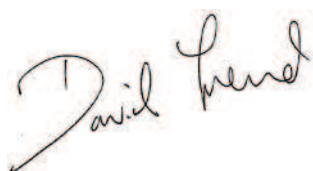
For the purposes of housing benefit, foster children are not considered to be part of the carer's household. For this reason no personal allowance is awarded for a foster child if the carer is in receipt of benefits (including housing benefit) and likewise a bedroom was not allocated for use by foster children. The Government had allocated £5m to the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) scheme to provide a level of protection to foster carers affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy. However, in response to concerns that DHPs were subject to discretion and may not be permanent, the Government announced on 12th March that legislation would be amended to put that help beyond doubt by allowing one spare bedroom for foster carers, in both private and social sector housing.

The new provision means that foster carers in the private rented sector may see an increase in their housing benefit. For foster carers living in the social rented sector, the impact of the changes will be reduced and, in many cases where the only spare room is used for fostering there will be no reduction in housing benefit at all.

Size criteria rules will, however, continue to apply across both the private and social rented sectors if foster carers have more than one spare room allocated to foster children. In addition, prospective adopters or special guardians who have a spare room available for a child that has not yet arrived may be impacted by this measure until the child moves in. This will also apply to those who are expecting a baby and have a room ready for when the baby arrives. We are asking local authorities to treat people in these circumstances as a priority group when considering claims to the Discretionary Housing Payment fund. Further advice can be found at paragraphs 2.12 to 2.14 of the DHP Guidance accessed via the following link: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/discretionary-housing-payments-guide.pdf>.

Over the coming two years, the impact of the implementation of the under-occupancy policy including the impact on foster carers, special guardians and adopters will be monitored by the Government.

More information about how the under-occupancy rules affect foster carers can be found at: www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/faqs-foster-carers.pdf.



LORD FREUD



EDWARD TIMPSON

REPORT TITLE
Housing Under Occupancy Rules

Purpose of the report and Summary

The report is intended to outline the changes law regarding bedroom tax and the impact on foster carers in Lancashire.

Key Information and Questions for Board Members

Housing Benefit Regulations in respect of foster carers and under occupancy

The government have decided to restrict housing benefit to allow only for one bedroom for each person or couple living as part of the household, with the following exceptions:

- Two children under 16 of same gender expected to share
- Two children under 10 expected to share regardless of gender
- Disabled tenant or partner who needs non-resident overnight carer will be allowed an extra bedroom
- Approved foster carers will be allowed an additional room so long as they have fostered a child, or become an approved foster carer in the last 12 months.
- Adult children in the Armed Forces will be treated as continuing to live at home when deployed on operations

Local councils have been advised to allow an extra bedroom for children who are unable to share because of their severe disabilities.

The cut will be a fixed percentage of the Housing Benefit eligible rent. The Government has said that this will be set at 14% for one extra bedroom and 25% for two or more extra bedrooms.

The Government's impact assessment shows that those affected will lose an average of £14 a week. Housing association tenants are expected to lose £16 a week on average.

Background

Children in Foster carer sharing a bedroom, the law; Fostering Services national minimum standards (NMS) and children sharing bedrooms.

There is no legal requirement for foster children to have their own bedroom, though the NMS expect that a child over the age of three will have their own bedroom wherever possible, taking account of the child's wishes and feelings. "Having their own bedroom will generally be appropriate, and is very important if, for example, a child has a history of sexualised behaviour or there is a risk of bullying."

The fostering service should be able to demonstrate that they have properly considered any risks, and have decided that sharing a bedroom is the best way to safeguard and promote the child's best interests and to meet the NMS outcome of ensuring that "Children live in foster homes which provide adequate space, to a suitable standard".

Current position in Lancashire

Practice in Lancashire is that children who are not brothers or sisters do not share a bedroom except in very rare circumstances, where it is felt to be in the child's best interest, a risk assessment has taken place and where the children are happy to do so.

There is no need to record if a foster carer owns or rents their house and therefore no central record is held of how many foster carers are currently living in social housing. During the pre approval assessment process the applicant's house is assessed to make sure it is good enough for any child, this information is recorded in the assessment. After approval on supervisory visits and foster care reviews the state of the house is reassessed. The assessment however is about the conditions as a home for children and young people, not whether the care rents or owns the home. There therefore is no accurate information with about how many foster carers will be affected by the bedroom tax regulation. However know the following;

There are currently at least 58 fostering households living in social housing.

There are at least 9 fostering households with more than 1 spare room for the purpose of fostering.

Of the current applicants in progress 1 lives in social housing.

Issues for consideration

Foster carers with one spare bedroom for the purpose of fostering will not be disadvantaged provided they have a young person placed within a 12 month period. Foster carers who have more than one spare room for the purpose of fostering will face cuts to their housing benefit.

It is difficult to challenge Benefits agencies where foster carers benefits are cut as the regulations would appear to support this.

There is a facility for discretionary housing payment (DHP), however this is not meant to be a long-term solution and would be quickly spent up.

Adults who don't currently foster or meet the other relevant criteria for exemption will face cuts to benefits and may need to consider re housing to accommodation with no spare rooms. A condition for accepting an application for an assessment as a

possible foster carer is that there is a spare room available in the home for the purpose of fostering.

Decisions required

The board is asked to note the content of this report

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28 September 2013

	Signature.	Date.
Draft.	M. Sunderland.	26.06.2013
Final.	D.Booth. B. Bath.	28.06.2013
Agreed by:		
Circulated:		

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY POLICY.

1. INTRODUCTION and CONTEXT.

1.1 From 1 July 2013 the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 amend the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 with respect to the delegation of decision making about looked after children to their carers.

1.2 The DfE has issued guidance section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which requires local authorities, in exercising their social services functions, to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State. This guidance should be complied with by local authorities when exercising these functions, unless local circumstances indicate exceptional reasons that justify a variation.

1.3 The DfE guidance is for local authority:

Children's Social Care Services	Commissioners of services for children looked after
Supervising social workers	Independent reviewing officers
Frontline managers with particular responsibilities in relation to children looked after	Director of children's services
Managers of services for children looked after	Lead members

It is also relevant to all providers of services to CLA including:

- Private, voluntary & public sector providers
- **Foster carers**
- **Residential workers**

1.4 Looked after children say that problems obtaining parents' and local authorities' consent to everyday activities make them feel different from their peers and cause them embarrassment and upset.

1.5 Poor planning around delegation of authority can delay decision-making and lead to children missing out on opportunities that enable them to experience a fulfilled childhood and feel part of their foster carer's family or the daily life of their children's

home. Failure to delegate appropriately, or to make clear who has the authority to decide what, can make it more difficult for foster carers and residential workers to carry out their caring role and form appropriate relationships with the children in their care.

2. KEY POINTS IN THE GUIDANCE

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authority for day-to-day decision making about a looked after child should be delegated to the child's carer(s), unless there is a valid reason not to do so.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A looked after child's placement plan should record who has the authority to take particular decisions about the child. It should also record the reasons where any day-to-day decision is not delegated to the child's carer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decisions about delegation of authority should take account of the looked after child's views. Consideration should be given as to whether a looked after child is of sufficient age and understanding to take some decisions themselves.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each local authority should have a published policy setting out their approach to the delegation of authority to foster carers and residential workers caring for children the local authority is responsible for.

3. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

Managing the relationship between the parents of a child looked after (or other carers with parental responsibility), the local authority, the **foster carer(s) or the registered manager of a children's home (referred to as 'the carer' in the guidance)** is challenging, particularly as those providing the day-to-day care do not hold parental responsibility (unless the child is living at home).

3.1 In fulfilling the local authority's duty to safeguard and promote the child's welfare it is essential that, wherever possible, the most appropriate person to take a decision about the child has the authority to do so, and that there is clarity about who has the authority to decide what.

3.2 Decisions about delegation of authority must be made within the context of –

- **The child's permanence plan**, which sets out the LA's plan for achieving a permanent home for the child; and
- **The legal framework for parental responsibility (PR)** in the Children Act 1989.

4. DELEGATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PERMANENCE PLAN.

When deciding who should have authority to take particular decisions, the most appropriate exercise of decision-making powers will depend, in part, on the long term plan for the child, as set out in the child's permanence plan.

- 4.1 Whatever the permanence plan, the carer should have delegated authority to take day-to-day parenting decisions. This enables them to provide the best possible care for the child.
- 4.2 Where the plan is for long term foster care, the foster carers should have a significant say in the majority of decisions about the child's care, including longer term decisions such as which school the child will attend.
- 4.3 Where the plan is for the child to return home, the child's parents should have a significant role in decision-making.

5. DELEGATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAW ON PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (PR).

The child's parents do not lose PR when the child is looked after.

Where the child is voluntarily accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 the local authority does not have PR.

The local authority does have PR where there is a care order or emergency protection order.

The foster carer never has PR.

A local authority cannot restrict a person's exercise of their PR, including their decisions about delegation, unless there is a care order or an emergency protection order in place.

Decisions about delegation should be kept under review through the care planning process, which parents should be involved in, where reasonably practicable (whether the child is voluntarily accommodated or under a care order).

5.1 Voluntary Accommodation.

5.1.1 The child's care plan, including delegation of authority to the local authority or child's carer, should (where the child is under 16), as far as is reasonably practicable, be agreed with the child's parents and anyone else who has PR.

5.1.2 If the young person is 16 or 17 the care plan should be agreed with them.

5.1.3 Where the local authority does not have PR they can still do what is reasonable in the circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the child's welfare.

5.2 Care Order or Emergency Protection Order.

5.2.1 The local authority should, wherever possible and appropriate, consult parents and others with PR for the child. The views of parents and others with PR should be complied with unless it is not consistent with the child's welfare.

5.2.2 If the local authority has a care order, then they can exercise their PR without the parent.

5.3 There are some decisions where the **law prevents authority being delegated to a person without PR:**

- Applying for a passport (a young person aged 16 or over who has the mental capacity to do so can apply for their own passport).
- Where there is a care order, a child or young person cannot be removed from the UK for more than a month without the written consent of everyone with PR or the leave of the Court.
- If a child or young person is voluntarily accommodated the necessary consents must be obtained as for a child outside the care system.
- The local authority cannot decide that a child should be known by a different surname or be brought up in a religion other than the one they would have been brought up in had they not become looked after.

6. THE CHILD'S ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS THEMSELVES.

6.1 Any decision about delegation of authority must consider the views of the child or young person.

6.2 In some cases a child will be of sufficient age and understanding to make decisions themselves. E.g. haircuts.

6.3 The local authority should, where appropriate, consider seeking the child's view on their preferred decision maker.

6.4 When deciding whether a particular child or young person has sufficient understanding to make a decision, the following questions should be considered:

- Does the child or young person understand the question being asked of them?
- Do they appreciate the options available to them?
- Are they able to weigh up the pros and cons of each option?
- Can they provide a clear personal view on the matter, as distinct from repeating what someone else thinks they should do?
- Is the child or young person reasonably consistent in their view on the matter, or are they constantly changing their mind?

6.5 Some decisions cannot be made until a young person reaches a certain age, regardless of their competence. (E.g. tattoos are not allowed for a young person under age 18 and some piercings until age 16).

7. TYPES OF DECISION.

Decisions about the care of a child or young person being looked after are likely to fall into three areas – Day to day parenting decisions, routine but longer term decisions and significant events.

7.1 Day to day parenting (including routine decisions about health and hygiene, education, leisure activities).

7.1.1 All decisions should be delegated to the child's **carer** (and/or the young person if they can make any of these decisions themselves).

7.1.2 Any exceptions or reasons for not delegating day-to- day parenting decisions to the carers should be set out in the placement plan within the child's care plan.

7.1.3 Decisions about activities that have a risk assessment carried out by the activity's organisers/supervisors (e.g. school trips or activity breaks) should be delegated to the carer. There is no expectation for the LA to duplicate any current risk assessments.

7.1.4 Decisions not to delegate to the carer may include the child's welfare – if their individual needs, past experiences or behaviour are such that some day-to - day decisions may need particular expertise and judgement. (E.g. where a child or young person is especially vulnerable to exploitation and overnight stays are involved, the foster carer or children's home may need the LA to manage this.)

The DfE's expectation is that the assessment and approval , training and caring for their own children will equip them with the skills and competence to undertake day - to – day care and decisions about their foster child's care. Any skills gap should be urgently addressed so that foster carers are able to carry out their parenting role effectively.

7.2 Routine longer term decisions. (e.g. School choice)

7.2.1 The child's permanence plan will be an important factor in determining who should be involved in the decision and will need skilled partnership working to involve all relevant people.

- E.g. Where the plan is for long term foster care, or care in a residential unit until age 18, then while the child's parents must be involved (unless there is a care order and the local authority has decided not to involve them), where possible the school choice should fit with the foster carer's family life as well as be appropriate for the child.
- E.g. If the plan is for the child to return home, their parents should be involved in a decision about the type of school the child should attend and its location, because ultimately the child will be living with them.

7.3 Significant events. (e.g. surgery)

This category of decisions is likely to be more serious and far reaching.

7.3.1 Where the child is under a care order or emergency protection order, decisions may be made by the birth parents or others with PR, which includes the local authority, depending on the decision and the circumstances; however such decisions should always take account of the wishes and feelings of the child and their carer.

7.3.2 Where the child is voluntarily accommodated the child's birth parents or others with PR should make these decisions.

8. THE PLACEMENT PLAN.

This policy is not intended to take the place of children's placement plans, which should take account of the child's individual circumstances when detailing how authority for decision-making is to be distributed. Children's placement plans should, however, take account of the principles set out in the policy, as well as of the statutory guidance on which the policy is based.

8.1 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended) require that each looked after child's placement plan must make clear who has the authority to take decisions in key areas of the child's day-to-day life, including:

- medical or dental treatment;
- education;
- leisure and home life;
- faith and religious observance;
- use of social media; and
- any other areas of decision-making considered relevant with respect to the particular child.

8.2 The person(s) with the authority to take a particular decision or give a particular consent must be clearly named on the placement plan and any associated actions should be clearly set out in the placement plan - (e.g. a requirement for the carer to notify the local authority that a particular decision has been made).

8.3 Placement plans must be agreed with the child's carer, and are likely to be most effective when drawn up in a placement planning meeting which involves everyone concerned, including the carers.

8.4 Where a decision is not delegated to the child's carer, but can be predicted in advance, the agreement of those with PR to the decision should be sought in advance and recorded in the placement plan, so that when the decision arises, delay can be avoided.

8.5 In some circumstances it might be expected that the carer will implement decisions that have been made by others.

- e.g. parents or the local authority may agree to the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, but ask the carer to take the child to appointments. This is

not delegation of decision making to the carer, as the decision will have been taken by those with PR and a medical professional, but it will enable the delivery of the service to continue without the need for ongoing support from social workers. The child's placement plan should make clear what the expectations of the carer are in such cases.

8.6 The appropriate distribution of decision making powers is likely to change over time, as the child matures and circumstances change. The placement plan forms a part of the child's overall care plan. Decisions about delegation of authority should be considered at each review of the care plan.

9. TIMELINESS.

9.1 Where a particular decision is not delegated to a child's carer and rests with the local authority, there must be a clear system in place for ensuring that decisions can be made by the appropriate person in a timely way, with arrangements in place to cover sickness and annual leave. Details of these arrangements must be given to parents, carers and, subject to their age and understanding, children and young people.

10. DELEGATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD'S EDUCATION.

The Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as including a person who has care of the child in question. Therefore a child's foster carer or residential worker is deemed a parent for the purposes of education law.

10.1 A foster carer should be treated like a parent with respect to information provided by a school about the child's progress; should be invited to meetings about the child; and should be able to give consent to decisions regarding school activities.

10.2 Young people can sometimes apply in their own right for a place at sixth form or FE College. If they are of compulsory school age their application must also be signed by a parent (which in the context of education includes foster carers or residential workers) confirming their approval of the application.

10.3 Once they are over compulsory school age they can apply in their own right without the need for parental consent. Young people can also appeal against the refusal of a sixth form place along these lines.

11. DELEGATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHILD'S HEALTH.

11.1 The legal position concerning consent and refusal of health treatment for those under 18 years old is set out in chapter 3 of the Department of Health's Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment, second addition 2009. The link:

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reference-guide-to-consent-for-examination-or-treatment-second-edition>)

Financial Support for Care Leavers who attend University

Currently the level of funding provided by Lancashire County Council is significantly above the minimum level expected by the Government.

It is proposed that the authority replaces the current level of funding of course fees and term time accommodation fees with a one off bursary of £3,500 on completing the degree in addition to meeting its statutory obligations

Key Information and Questions for Board Members

- Lancashire County Councils wants as many Care Leavers as possible to attend University
- This authority has always paid more than other Local Authorities in the North West in supporting care leavers who go to University.
- This plan means we will still pay more than other Local Authorities if the care leaver finishes their chosen degree course
- The increase in the numbers of care leavers who go to university and the rise in the cost of course fees cannot be supported within the current budget as course fees have gone from £3,000 to £9,000 per year.
- Lancashire County Council will pay Care Leavers £2,000 over a three year period and financially support any vacation accommodation required by the Care leaver.
- The care leaver will need to borrow money from the Government to pay for course fees and accommodation
- A non-repayable maintenance grant of up to £3,354 is available for care leavers
- A number of Universities also provide bursaries to young people who have been identified by the Government as being 'vulnerable'. Care leavers are in this group.
- The Young Persons personal adviser will ensure that they claim all of the monies for which they are eligible.
- Lancashire County Council will pay the Young Person £3,500 on the successful completion of the degree course.

Background

Legislation in relation to care leavers attending university requires Local Authorities to provide a one-off Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 and to provide vacation accommodation. Lancashire has always been more generous than statutory requirements and currently funds term time accommodation and undergraduate degree course fees alongside the statutory requirements. This has always been funded from within the existing budget allocation however from September 2012 the Government allowed universities to charge course fees of up to £9,000 per academic year.

The fee increase coupled with an increase in the number of young people taking up courses has highlighted that this level of financial support can no longer be met within the reducing funding envelope. It is therefore proposed to cease funding of course fees and term-time university accommodation costs. This will require young people to access support from alternative sources.

Young people attending university full-time are able to apply for the following Government funding:

- a non-repayable Maintenance Grant of up to £3,354 (where household income is less than £25,000);
- a Maintenance Loan (means tested based on parental income and amount of Grant received);
- a Tuition Fee Loan;
- An Accommodation Loan.

The Authority does not currently provide care leavers attending university with a weekly income to cover living costs and therefore it is expected that care leavers will apply for the Maintenance Grant (which will also enable eligibility for other financial support from some universities at times of hardship). All Care leavers are eligible to apply for the Maintenance Grant and some may also apply for a Maintenance Loan.

Whilst Lancashire's care leavers have previously not had to apply for the Tuition Fee loan or Accommodation Loan to enable them to attend university, doing so would place them in line with a large proportion of undergraduate students whose parents are unable to afford to fund this cost.

At present the Maintenance Loan, Accommodation Loan and Tuition Fee Loan are repayable only when a graduate is earning over £21,000 a year. The debt ends after 30 years and as repayment levels are linked to income some graduates may never repay the full loan borrowed.

In place of the Authority paying tuition fees and accommodation costs it is proposed that a one-off bursary of £3,500 (a graduation bursary) is awarded on successful completion of the course to provide financial support to care leavers immediately following graduation. The amount proposed has taken into account that a graduate care leaver may benefit from paying off student overdraft, move accommodation and financially support themselves until they start earning an income.

In addition, graduate care leavers will be given any outstanding amount left over from their 'Setting Up' Home Allowance (up to £2,050) which they may not have fully accessed prior to graduation.

This graduation bursary is not currently provided to care leavers though some may access financial support for a deposit / rent in advance and the Setting-Up Home Allowance before support from Children's Social Care ceases although care leavers are not usually given the outstanding unspent amount.

If agreed this policy will take effect on 1st January 2014 and will apply to those Care Leavers who are planning to commence at University for the academic year 2014/15. However the Care Leavers who are currently attending University or have applied to start University this year (2013) on the basis of the current financial support will receive that support until their studies are completed in 3 years (or less) time. Consequently the policy will only take full effect in 2016.

What do you want the Board to do (note or approve) what outcome would you wish to achieve by presenting your report to the Board, how can decisions made by the Board help to meet the needs of Children and Young People.

- (i) Seeking the agreement of the board to this new policy

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4th September 2013

Staying Put Policy.

Purpose of the report and Summary

The Government has told Lancashire County Council and all other Local authorities that young people in care should be able to stay with their foster carers beyond their 18th birthday.

A policy has been written which will support young people who wish to live with their foster carers up to their 19th birthday.

Key Information and Questions for Board Members

- Only applies to young people (YP) who are in Foster Care.
- It will be financially supported by Children's Social Care.
- The carer(s) will receive a payment of £150 per week for each YP who stays with the family after becoming 18.
- Birthday, holiday and festival allowances will not be paid
- The payment will consist of housing benefit (claimed by the YP), a contribution of £20 from the YP's wages, salary, benefits or education allowances with the remainder provided by Children Social Care.
- The new payment will apply from the YP's 18th birthday unless the young person is in full time education in which case the applicable pre 18 fostering allowance will continue until the formal end of Year 13.
- Foster Carers who agree to a staying put arrangement who are only approved for one placement will not be able to carry on as a Foster Carer.
- If the Foster Care is approved for more than one placement, the Young Person will be subject to a Police check
- If a staying put placement is an option it must be considered within a Statutory Review and agreed as soon as possible and no later than 6 months before the YP's 18th birthday.
- If the YP leaves the placement where the staying put arrangement has been agreed before their 18th birthday another staying put arrangement will not be agreed.
- If the YP leaves the staying put arrangement before their 19th birthday the arrangement will cease and cannot be re-started.
- If the YP does not pass on the housing benefit or contribute to the arrangement as outlined the arrangement will cease.
- These arrangements will also apply to Agency Foster Carers.

Background

The policy recognises that moving into adulthood is a challenging period and outlines the importance of supporting vulnerable care leavers as they move into adulthood by enabling the most vulnerable to remain with their former carers under defined circumstances.

The definitions used within the policy are in accordance with Department for Education definitions and describe the arrangements made when a young person who has been looked after immediately prior to their eighteenth birthday continues to live with their former foster carers without a break in those arrangements. The policy outlines four criteria under which young people can be considered under the 'Staying Put' arrangements. These are:

- Education
- Vulnerability
- Disability
- Planned Move on

The policy further outlines the duration of any Staying Put placement which will a maximum of 12 months and, dependent upon the individual circumstances of the young person.

The policy outlines the financial position for young people and for Staying Put Carers and outlines a benchmarked rate of £150 per week including a contribution from the young person of £20 of mean tested benefits or wage they are in receipt of.

Council priorities

The Staying Put policy helps to address the issue of stability for vulnerable young adults while they access further education or training, thus supporting improving outcomes in learning and life by enabling them to remain within a stable family setting.

The Staying Put Policy also provides a safety net for some vulnerable young people who may be experiencing difficulties in transitioning into semi or independent living arrangements. This will support their emotional well-being and contribute towards enabling them to improve their employability and ultimately a more sustainable community.

The Staying Put Policy also supports the Council in delivering its responsibility as a Corporate Parent for looked after children as part of Children's Services. These responsibilities extend to care leavers and this policy extends the support available to this vulnerable group of young people.

Risk management

Lancashire County Council has effectively operated a limited 'Staying Put' policy over the past 5 years in that we have always continued to support placements while a young person in full time education completes their course even if they have achieved the age of 18.

Feedback from the consultations clearly indicated the necessity of forward planning as the Staying Put payment is an additional financial commitment for the County and the rate is a reduction on the Foster Carer rate. Forward planning is also critical to ensure that vulnerable young people are supported to plan their future in a way that allows them to make sensible, safe choices to fulfil their learning goals and become safe and productive members of Lancashire.

Failure to develop a consistent Staying Put Policy may result in young people for whom Lancashire County Council has a Corporate Parenting Responsibility losing the benefit of consistent and stable family care at a point when they may be particularly vulnerable and susceptible to poor decision making.

Legal implications

The principal regulatory framework for Staying Put arrangements are to be found in:

The Children and Young Persons Act (2008 Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers 2010 (Regulations and Guidance)

Staying Put” Arrangements for Care Leavers aged 18 and above to stay on with their former foster carers HM Government (May 2013)

Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards 2011, part of the regulatory framework for fostering services and services for looked after children.

The National Care Advisory Service offers guidance on Disclosure and Barring Service checks which will be required for those young people who remain in a former foster home where younger children are also fostered. Compliance with Disclosure and Barring Service will be kept under review to ensure that Lancashire County Council meets best practice thresholds.

From the age of eighteen young people are no longer legally 'in care' or 'looked after' and therefore fostering arrangements and legislation relating to children placed with foster carers no longer applies. In circumstances where a young person remains with their former foster carer/s after their eighteenth birthday, the arrangement should therefore be deemed an 'age eighteen and older arrangement' or "Staying Put" arrangement. The term 'arrangement' should be used rather than placement; the term 'placement' denotes a situation where the local authority arranged and placed the child with a foster carer. Once the child reaches the age of eighteen and legal adulthood, the local authority is no longer making a placement, but facilitating a "Staying Put" arrangement for the young person.

Decisions required

- (i) The Corporate Parenting Board are asked to support the policy's aims and objectives

Report Author:

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4th September 2013*

Leaving Care Mentoring Scheme

Purpose of the report and Summary

Agree proposal for a leaving care mentoring scheme to provide informal support for a small group of young people as they approach independence and adulthood. The purpose of mentors will be to allow young people to have someone that is there just for them and helping them to achieve their goals or find direction as they reach adulthood.

Key Information and Questions for Board Members

- Within this leaving care mentoring scheme a successful mentoring relationship is an opportunity for a young person leaving care to develop a high quality connection with someone who can help them as they become an adult.
- It may not be a large number of young people leaving care who want this kind of support, some young people have had a lot of professionals working with them for a large part of their lives, however for those that wish to have an informal relationship with a mentor it can be beneficial in their transition to adulthood to help them access education, prepare for employment, or maintain their accommodation.

Background

Young people leaving care have a wide range of needs in order for them become independent in their living, whilst the Council has a responsibility to provide professional support from personal advisors, social workers and others, there is an opportunity to support young people approaching adulthood in more informal ways. Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Scottish Government, NSPCC and Mentoring and Befriending Foundation show that young people leaving care find valuable the opportunity for an informal relationship with a mentor or befriender, providing them with someone that is "just for me". Mentors and befrienders can use their life experience to help prepare young people prepare for leaving care in a variety of ways such as practical advice on maintaining accommodation, further education or building skills to enter employment.

At present, children in care are able to access an Independent Visitor, this person can spend time with a young person to access activities, develop social skills, or talk about things. This has many similarities with what a leaving care mentoring or befriending scheme would do, however the Independent Visitor Service is only available until the age of 18. We wish to propose a commissioned leaving care

mentoring service to allow young people a supportive informal relationship for beyond age 18. Reaching adulthood and independence can mean many changes for young people in care because of the differences in what is available for those under and over age 18, informal support from a leaving care mentor could help support a young person with this transition, as well as the support they receive from family, friends and the other professionals working with them.

The Joseph Rowntree assessment of Princes Trust mentoring schemes for young people leaving care found that 93% of young people felt they had positive outcomes, three-quarters achieved at least one of their original outcomes, and two-fifths had made plans for the future. Overall it was found that young people who had been mentored for over a year were more likely to have achieved goals and made some plans for the future. Mentors also felt that being a mentor for a young person had helped them increase their skills and confidence in working with young people.

Last year a volunteer scheme supporting young people leaving care (Friends 4 U) was piloted in Lancashire, however there were a range of difficulties in setting up a new scheme, such as staffing, awareness of the scheme and being able to match volunteers with young people leaving care. A small survey of care leavers (19 in total) showed that 63% were aware of the Friends 4 U scheme and that 36% would be interested in a volunteer to support them.

Whilst we do not expect large numbers of young people accessing a leaving care mentoring service it is anticipated that there would be a wide range of ways in which mentors can support and the benefits that can be achieved for the young people supported by the scheme. There are a range of possibilities in how this has been implemented, for example some schemes have chosen to focus on peer mentoring rather than traditional adult mentoring, other schemes have chosen to specialise their support such as transition to adult mental health services, homeless young people, attitudes towards young people in care or going to university from care.

We propose the development of a mentoring scheme to provide informal support for young people approaching leaving care, the focus of this scheme would be to help young people as they become adults and independent. This may be to achieve goals such as entering higher education, employment, securing accommodation or accessing health needs. These goals may be a formal part of a young person's pathway plan, however the leaving care mentor's role would be to support the young person in the softer skills to achieve these types of goals, or practical advice, and guidance. The activities a mentor could be undertaking may then range across helping to complete application forms or write a CV, looking at different college or university courses, help a young person get advice or information on services they need, how to manage money, helping buy things for a new home, helping understand how to deal with hostile or difficult situations, being someone a young person can talk to, support in social activities, or help them find direction. The benefits of a leaving care mentoring scheme are as much about developing a positive relationship for a young person as the achieving of specific goals and a successful leaving care mentor is not just another professional working with a young person in care but someone that is there for the young person. The most important aspect of the support is to provide a young person leaving care with a high quality

connection with another person who is not a worker or professional and can help them as they become an adult.

The extension of the current Independent Visitor scheme beyond age 18 has been considered however the requirements of a leaving care mentoring scheme will be to support the transition to adulthood and independence, so is therefore a different skill area that is not currently covered by this scheme and some young people will benefit from a relationship that will be longer term than that provided through the Independent Visitor scheme.

It is envisaged that the scheme would be available for young people approaching leaving care who wish to take up support to help them develop during the transition to adulthood and achieve independence. This service would need to ensure matching between how the young person would like to be supported and the skills of the mentors available. As being a volunteer mentor provides the opportunity for people to develop their skills in working with young people ideally the scheme would attract volunteers from those who wish to work with young people or to develop their skills, however volunteers do come from a variety of backgrounds. Young people who exit the scheme should be encouraged to consider whether they would wish to become a mentor too, if they were ready for that. The scheme would need to include good training and supervision for those that are mentors so that they are confident and equipped to provide the support that young people will need and be flexible enough to cover the range of areas in which a young person would wish for help in.

Estimates:

In Lancashire there are currently 233 young people in care aged 16-18, however not all would wish for a mentor, based on estimates between 36% (above) and approximately 8% of Lancashire children in care who take up the well-established Independent Visitors service, the take-up of the service may be around 20% of young people leaving care, this is approximately 40 in the current 16-18 age group.

The research so far with other local authorities was unable to determine exact costs for a leaving care mentoring scheme, however costs could be estimated from another supporting children in care scheme in Lancashire and the Friend 4 U project, these scaled costs suggest in the region of £40k per annum to cover managing volunteers, training and expenses for 40 cases per annum. These would be finalised in more detail as part of the contract agreements made.

Decisions required

What do you want the Board to do (note or approve) what outcome would you wish to achieve by presenting your report to the Board, how can decisions made by the Board help to meet the needs of Children and Young People.

- (i) Development of service specification and tender exercise for young people leaving care mentoring scheme that provides an informal relationship for young people approaching adulthood to compliment the current leaving care services. This is to support young people leaving care as they become adults and independent, at an approximate cost of £40k per annum for 40 young people cases

Report Author:

Suzanne Cheng, Tel 07919 227418

Date of report production:

Sept 2013

Grant Funding Applications

Number	Approved/ Not Approved	Name and Address of Group	Application Details	Amount Requested	Contact Person	Date Application Received	Date Considered by Young People	Date considered by Directors	Date considered by Chair	Comments	Link to Report	Date sent to Julie	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Journal Transfer Details
1	Approved	CLICS, County Hall, Preston	Refreshments at two county Celebration Events 2010 for Children Looked After and Care Leavers	£3,152.32	Suzy Cummings, Participation Officer, B4 County Hall,	01-Apr-2010		19-Apr-2010	19-Apr-2010		Applications\A pplication 1\app 1.pdf	18/06/10			
2	Approved	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, Easden Clough, Morse Street, Burnley, BB10 4PB	Summer fun day which will include stalls that give information to our young people on health matters, education, healthy eating, drugs etc to allow young people to access this information but also have a good time, have a DJ to play music	£500.00	Gwen Monk, Manager, Crestmoor CRU	06-May-2010		Louise Taylor 19/05/2010	CC Winder 19/05/2010		Applications\A pplication 2\app 2.pdf	18/06/10	30/06/10	£500.00	Document No: 9030639
3	Deferred	Social Pedagogy Task Force, Crestmoore Children's Residential Unit, Easden Clough, Morse Street, Burnley, BB10 4PB	Seeing The Hidden – a photography project, that culminates in publishing a book	£2,075.00	Alexander Borchert, Social Pedagogue/ Consultant	13/05/10		Reply Received Louise Taylor 16/07/2010		Author informed deferred 11/08/2010	Applications\A pplication 3				
4	Not approved	Haverholt Children's Home, 24A Haverholt Close, Colne, BB8 9SN	To enable CLA to have Spanish fiesta type meal, visiting the Roman Amphitheatre near where we are staying, a day out at a Water Park and a day out at a Theme Park and finally rides on a Banana Boat or something similar whilst on holiday in Spain	£2,000.00	Alan Hornby, Registered Manager, Haverholt CCH	07-Jul-2010		Grant Not Supported by Louise Taylor 16/07/2010		Not supported - Author informed 20/07/2010	Applications\A pplication 4\10 07 07 Application form holiday.docx				
5	Approved	Children and Young People's Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	Printing "Entitlements Leaflets" for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers	£322.00	Peter Francis, Performance Manager, Room B10, County Hall	06-Aug-2010		Louise Taylor 10/08/10	CC Winder 11/08/2010	14/09/2010 - Notification of approved application to Peter Francis	Applications\A pplication 5\Entitlements Leaflets - Grant				
6	Not approved	Haverholt Children's Home, 24A Haverholt Close, Colne, BB8	To fund a conservatory at the back of the house	£30,000.00	Miss Sarah Hill, Assistant Manager, Haverholt CCH	17-Aug-2010		Reply from Louise Taylor 31/08/2010			Applications\A pplication 6\Haverholt.pdf				
7	Approved	Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team	To supplement the existing service's recruitment budget in order to meet 2010/11 new foster carer targets.	£13,000.00	Gill Green, Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team Manager	06-Oct-2010		Comments from Louise Taylor 12/10/2010	CC Winder/CC Wilson 20/10/2010	21/10/2010 Notification of approval sent to Stasia Osiowy, Barbara Bath and Gill Green	Applications\A pplication 7\Grant Application.doc				
8	In Progress	CLASS, 2nd Floor, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH	E Learning' Training for Emotional Health and Wellbeing modules for all of Lancashire's Children's workforce (estimated at 54,000). The modules will be accessed through Lancashire's website. The full course consists of nine modules of which three have so far been funded through the schools budget and NHS NW. These will be launched in the new	£30,000.00	Mark Warren, CAMHS Co-ordinator	16-Dec-2010	30/12/11 Follow Up Sent to Mark Warren	Sent to Louise Taylor 07/01/2011	Sent to CC Winder 07/01/2011		Applications\A pplication 8\Grant Funding Application.docx				

Grant Funding Applications

Number	Approved/ Not Approved	Name and Address of Group	Application Details	Amount Requested	Contact Person	Date Application Received	Date Considered by Young People	Date considered by Directors	Date considered by Chair	Comments	Link to Report	Date sent to Julie	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Journal Transfer Details
9	Approved	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, 1 Unity Way, off Haslingden Old Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 8RR	Crestmoor would like to start an initiative with Burnley Youth Theatre that will see the young people of Crestmoor express themselves through different media. At the end of the project the young people will have produced a DVD that shows "A life in the day of Crestmoor".	£6,475.00	Alexander Borchert, Social Pedagogue	12-Jan-2011		02/03/2011 Approved by Louise Taylor	04/03/2011 CC Val Wilson Approval	10/03/2011 Notification of approval sent to Alexander Borchert	Applications\A pplication 9\application 9.pdf				
10	Approved	Hannah Peake, CYP Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	Work to support and enable the participation of looked after children and young people	£2,530.00	Hannah Peake	25-Mar-2011		Approval Received from Louise Taylor 25/03/2011	06/04/2011 CC Wilson	06/05/2011 Approval Email Sent to Hannah Peake	Applications\A pplication 10\application 10.pdf				
11	Approved	Hannah Peake, CYP Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	To design and print several children and young people friendly documents.	£2,485.00	Hannah Peake	05-Apr-2011		06/04/2011 Approval Louise Taylor	06/04/2011 CC Wilson	07/04/2011 Approval Email sent to Hannah	Applications\A pplication 11\application 11.pdf				
12	Approved	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA, Area Education Office, White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster, LA1	To host an event which enables managers from; residential, foster, adoption, field work and CWD to explore participation and develop an action plan to support the Participation Strategy for Children Looked After.	£237.50	Paul Hegarty	06-May-2011		18/05/2011 Approval Louise Taylor	18/05/2011 CC Winder Approval	19/05/2011 Approval Email sent to Paul Hegarty	Applications\A pplication 12\Application Form.doc				
13	Approved	Laura Goodfellow, Lancashire Children's Rights Service, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, PR1 3NA	Children Looked After and Care Leaver Celebration of Achievement Event	£7,000.00	Laura Goodfellow	18-Jan-2012	Confirmation of YP Approval 13/02/2012	23/02/2012 Approval Louise Taylor	23/02/2012 Approval CC Winder	24/02/2012 Approval Email sent to Laura Goodfellow and CC Kay	Applications\A pplication 13\Grant application Celebration Event.doc				
14	Approved	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA, Area Education Office, White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster, LA1	To print LAC/CPB Literature - the Pledge	£57.75	Paul Hegarty	27-Oct-2011		24/11/2011 Sent to Louise Taylor	22/11/2011 CC Winder Approval	25/11/11 Approval Email sent to Paul Hegarty	Applications\A pplication 14\Application Form.doc				
15	In Progress	Laura Goodfellow, Lancashire Children's Rights Service, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, PR1 3NA	To develop work in communicating with children and young people looked after. This will include involving children and young people in producing informational resources to communicate with children and young people in care across Lancashire. This is expected to take the form of leaflet development and posters, however, the direction of the resources produced will be taken from the children and young people and we are open to ideas that are more innovative and creative.	£1,000.00	Laura Goodfellow	28-Nov-2011	Young People Approval 19/12/2011	Sent to Louise Taylor 30/12/2011	Sent to CC Winder 20/12/2011		Applications\A pplication 15\Grant application 15.doc				

Grant Funding Applications

Number	Approved/ Not Approved	Name and Address of Group	Application Details	Amount Requested	Contact Person	Date Application Received	Date Considered by Young People	Date considered by Directors	Date considered by Chair	Comments	Link to Report	Date sent to Julie	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Journal Transfer Details
16	Approved	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, 1 Unity Way, off Haslingden Old Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 8RR	15 young people who attend Weds night at JJB from both residential leaving care and foster care, they have been doing regular football coaching and will complete a 1 day accredited junior sports leader award, any young people who are appropriate will undergo F.A 25 hour junior coaching award. Continue with the ongoing success that has been created.	£10000 - £2500 granted	Gwen Monk, Manager, Crestmoor CRU	28-Mar-2012	17/10/2012 Comments from YP	19/10/2012 Louise Taylor Approved	08/11/2012 CC Winder Approved	121108 Approval Sent Gwen Monk	Applications\A pplication 16\Application Form.doc				

Grant Funding Applications - Approved

Grant Application Number	Name and Address of Group	Application Details	Contact Person	Amount Requested	Amount Received	Description of how Funding was Utilised
1	CLICS, County Hall, Preston	Refreshments at two county Celebration Events 2010 for Children Looked After and Care Leavers	Suzy Cummings, Participation Officer, B4 County Hall, Preston	£3,152.32	£3,152.32	<p>Events held on 18 March 2010 and 29 April 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees – 233 young people were nominated for an award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees – 177 were invited to the events • Nominees - 64 attended the events to receive their awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers – 61 • Lancashire County Council Staff and Councillors – 34 • In total 160 staff, carers, county councillors, managers, Children and Young People Looked After and Care Leavers attended the event. • Unfortunately 56 Young people were nominated but not invited to the event due to lack of space in the venue
2	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, Easden Clough, Morse Street, Burnley, BB10 4PB	Summer fun day which will include stalls that give information to our young people on health matters, education, healthy eating, drugs etc to allow young people to access this information but also have a good time, have a DJ to play music	Gwen Monk, Manager, Crestmoor CRU	£500.00	£500.00	<p>The money was used to help put on a fun day. This was a huge success attended by all the areas residential units, social workers, all the CWD units we had information stalls from education, health and children's rights. We held the Olympics with teams from the CLA team, YOT and Crestmoor with Crestmoor winning the cup!! We also released over 1000 balloons which we charged £1 a balloon and this money will be donated to Donna's dream house for Children with terminal illnesses. We had a petting zoo, a gunge chair competition which people paid to have someone gunged this was won by Anthony Moorcroft and Gary Pickles, a steel band, BBQ, chocolate fountain and tombola. It was great to see everyone having a good time together. For me it was partnership and participation at its finest.</p>
5	Children and Young People's Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	Printing "Entitlements Leaflets" for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Peter Francis, Performance Manager, Room B10, County Hall	£322.00	£322.00	In the process of having the leaflets printed.

7	Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Team	To supplement the existing service's recruitment budget in order to meet 2010/11 new foster carer targets.	£13,000.00	£13,000.00	£13,000.00	<p>The Communications Service was tasked with supporting the fostering recruitment team in achieving 1,000 enquiries between April 2010 and March 2011. Research was undertaken and communications objectives were set with targets of increasing traffic to the website and enquiries to the telephone helpline. The additional £13,000 grant funding was essential and was used to purchase appropriate advertising space and marketing materials to achieve this.</p> <p>A broad range of tactics were used during the campaign based on the demographic research of behaviour and preferences of our key audience. Activity included media relations, broadcast and print advertising, outdoor advertising, grassroots distribution of marketing materials, digital marketing and internal communications.</p> <p>Key outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The campaign exceeded its key target with a final total of 1,113 fostering enquiries achieved within the 2011/12 financial year. • A 23% increase in unique visitors to the website which led to an average of 74.5 online enquiries each month. • Telephone enquiries increased from an average of 35 up to 68 calls per month by the last campaign quarter. • More people now identify one of the campaign's key channels than previously which indicates that communications are more memorable and/or focused to more appropriate channels.
9	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, 1 Unity Way, off Haslingden Old Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 8RR	Crestmoor would like to start an initiative with Burnley Youth Theatre that will see the young people of Crestmoor express themselves through different media. At the end of the project the young people will have produced a DVD that shows "A life in the day of Crestmoor".	Alexander Borchert, Social Pedagogue	£6,475.00	£6,475.00	<p><u>On the 19th and 26th of May 2011 the first two sessions for young people from East Lancashire have happened. These were colourful, interesting sessions which the young people thoroughly enjoyed. There were some games to get to know each other, a tour through the theatre and some exercises around what the young people want to do in the future sessions. First photographs were taken of and by the young people; material was collected for a play and /or poem. The young people expressed what they want to do (i.e. filming) and this is now prepared for the next sessions to come.</u></p> <p><u>Newspaper report from the event.</u></p>

10	Hannah Peake, CYP Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	Work to support and enable the participation of looked after children and young people	Hannah Peake, Strategic Lead - Children and Young People's Participation	£2,530.00	£2,530.00	Key Activities: 1. Facilitating attendance at CPB. 2. Supporting young people to attend Lancashire Youth Council. 3. Youth Proofing Lancashire CLA documents. 4. Continuing consulting with children and young people regarding the CiCC. 5. CiCC meetings.
11	Hannah Peake, CYP Directorate, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	To design and print several children and young people friendly documents.	Hannah Peake, Strategic Lead - Children and Young People's Participation	£2,485.00	£2,485.00	The project is still in progress but the policy and strategy document have been 'Youth proofed' and will be sent to the Communications team to be designed and printed. The A-Z document and children's version are still being drafted as they need to reflect recent changes to in legislation/ government guidance.
12	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA, Area Education Office, White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster, LA1 4XQ	To host an event which enables managers from; residential, foster, adoption, field work and CWD to explore participation and develop an action plan to support the Participation Strategy for Children Looked After.	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA	£237.50	£237.50	The event was very successful with over 30 managers attending from residential homes (both mainstream and children with additional needs), fostering, adoption, Independent reviewing services, social workers (IAS/CWD/CLA/LC) and a team manager. The event was also supported by the attendance of County Councillor Tony Winder and Louise Taylor (Director). The event looked at the opportunities and challenges of introducing a children in care council and an action plan was developed that Hannah (Peake) is currently producing. A representative from the Children Society also attended following their recent successful bid to drive this agenda forward and outlined next steps. Detailed discussion did take place regarding Hannah's strategic role and the concern the group expressed at the lack of a distinct focus on the children looked after agenda. Hannah spoke to this and it was agreed that I would discuss this further with Louise Taylor. In conclusion I think the event was a success. It established some clear actions and principles to ensure this essential activity is successfully implemented and the views of children and young people influence the service they receive, professional practice and wider service delivery. In conclusion I think the event was a success. It established some clear actions and principles to ensure this essential activity is successfully implemented and the views of children and young people influence the service they receive, professional practice and wider service delivery.
13	Laura Goodfellow, Lancashire Children's Rights Service, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, PR1 3NA	Children Looked After and Care Leaver Celebration of Achievement Event	Laura Goodfellow	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	

14	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA, Area Education Office, White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster, LA1 4XQ	To print LAC/CPB Literature - the Pledge	Paul Hegarty, Service Manager CLA	£57.75	£57.75	
16	Crestmoor Children's Residential Unit, 1 Unity Way, off Haslingden Old Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 8RR	15 young people who attend Weds night at JJB from both residential leaving care and foster care, they have been doing regular football coaching and will complete a 1 day accredited junior sports leader award, any young people who are appropriate will undergo F.A 25 hour junior coaching award. Continue with the ongoing success that	Gwen Monk, Manager, Crestmoor CRU	£10,000.00	£2,500.00	
17	Anthony Moorcroft, 29 South Avenue, Morecambe, LA4 5RJ	The project aims to involve Lancashire's children looked after in creating a giant patch work quilt that represents their views thoughts feelings on individual placements, be this Residential, Foster, Short Break or leaving Care. Allowing children young people a voice, regardless of their background, age, ability or circumstances.	Anthony Moorcroft, Overnight Residential Manager, South Avenue	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	
18	Hena Begum, Autumn House Children's Home, Co-operative Street, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 6FH	To purchase sport and recreational equipment for young people to participate on the date with staff members and invitees. There will be a small sports day to keep young people focussed, active and be able to enjoy and achieve.	Hena Begum, Assistant Manager, Autumn House	£500.00	£300.00	

19	Laura Goodfellow, Lancashire Children's Rights Service, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston,	Children's Rights Summit	Laura Goodfellow, Youth Mentor, Children's Rights Service	£1,425.00	£712.50	
TOTAL					£47,272.07	

Grant Funding Applications - Not Approved

Grant Application Number	Name and Address of Group	Application Details	Contact Person	Amount Requested	Reason for Not Approved
3	Social Pedagogy Task Force, Crestmoore Children's Residential Unit, Easden Clough, Morse Street, Burnley, BB10 4PB	Seeing The Hidden – a photography project, that culminates in publishing a book	Alexander Borchert, Social Pedagogue/ Consultant	£2,075.00	Deferred because still insufficient understanding of how this links to the children in care council and the wider directorate's commitment to the engagement of children and young people.
4	Haverholt Children's Home, 24A Haverholt Close, Colne, BB8 9SN	To enable CLA to have Spanish fiesta type meal, visiting the Roman Amphitheatre near where we are staying, a day out at a Water Park and a day out at a Theme Park and finally rides on a Banana Boat or something similar whilst on holiday in Spain	Alan Hornby, Registered Manager, Haverholt CCH	£2,000.00	The grant is not approved as it is not an appropriate use of Corporate Parenting Board funding or ties in with priorities in CCYP Plan and in current economic climate would mean that CLA arguably are receiving over and above what others received and it subsidises staff. There is also potential for it to set a precedence of this nature.

6	Haverholt Children's Home, 24A Haverholt Close, Colne, BB8 9SN	To fund a conservatory at the back of the house	Miss Sarah Hill, Assistant Manager, Haverholt CCH	£30,000.00	It would be inappropriate to subsidise activity of this kind because there would be insufficient funds .to cover similar requests from other homes. The link between the request and the Children and Young People's Plan is tenuous. It wouldn't be appropriate to subsidise activities which involve staff and support activities which arguably other families in such an economic downturn could not afford.
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