

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 24th April, 2014 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Lorraine Beavers	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Chris Henig	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Rachel Bland	- representing Foster Carers
Five Young People	- LINX Representatives

Co-opted members

Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Sue Parr	- representing The Virtual School, Lancashire County Council
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Louise Burton	- CCG
Richard Cooke	- Quality and Continuous Improvement Team
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Governance Team
Brendan Lee	- ACERS
Finlay McCalman	- Business Support Team
Annette McNeil	- Integrated Health Service

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and the following apologies were noted:

Kathy Ashworth, Marc Bentley, Debbie Ross and Catherine Poole.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 6 February 2014

The notes of the previous meeting on 6 February 2013 were noted as an accurate record. There were no actions arising from the notes that were not being picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

Members of the Board (County Councillors Prynne, Brown and Henig) updated the board on their activities since the last meeting.

The Board was asked to note that the Grant Funding Scheme has now ceased and will not be replaced. The outstanding balance has now been carried forward to enable the Proud Celebration Event and the Conference to take place next year.

Concern was raised by County Councillors Brown and Brindle whom attended an Adoption Activity Day that this had not been brought via the Board prior to its arrangement. Councillors felt that the organisation of the day could have been better. Barnardos have also expressed concerns regarding activity days as a whole. An evaluation of such days has been carried out by Manchester Metropolitan University however, it does not appear to be published anywhere.

It was proposed that a letter from the Board be sent outlining their feedback on the day including suggestions for the future.

Diane Booth agreed to feedback to the Head of Service for Adoption and bring the initial feedback from the event to the next meeting.

4. Action Sheet

Staying Put/Leaving Care is high on the agenda for the coming year. 80% of care leavers access some form of service within the Authority after 2-3 years of leaving care. A piece of work is being carried out by the Social Care Research Unit (SCRU) to look at this as well as homeless 16/17 year olds. This work will commence at the end of May 2014.

Diane Booth agreed to report back at the next meeting.

5. CYPP

Richard Cooke gave a brief background around the consultation process and that young people felt that a video was the best way of getting the message across regarding the Plan. A premier of the video will be held on 19 May 2014 where all children and families that have contributed will be invited to attend. The Plan will be presented to Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools for approval on 13 May 2014.

Richard introduced the video, reiterating that it was still in draft mode. The Board felt that it was too long, especially if being used on social media – a condensed one would be better. The young people enjoyed the video, however, felt that there should be a condensed version. They also felt it was much better than having a paper copy.

It was agreed that Richard would come back to the next meeting to update the Board on how they were going to deliver the plan.

6. New Inspection Framework

Bob Stott spoke to the presentation attached and informed the Board that Ofsted were due between now and January/February 2015. Training sessions are planned for County Councillors in preparing for inspection.

7. SEND Reforms, CLA Strategy and Adoption Agency Report May-Oct 2013

Diane Booth updated the Board on the SEND Reforms attached to the agenda. Work is being carried out to implement one system for 0-25 year olds for Education, Care and Health Assessment. There is a new system for fastracking complaints. Briefing sessions will be held for Elected Members if it needs revisiting and Diane Booth will inform the Head of Service. The focus is on Out of Area placements and the need to reduce these.

It was agreed that Diane Booth will bring the Sufficiency Strategy to the next meeting.

It was also requested that data on CLA resident in Lancashire and whether they are from or out of County be sought and reported on at the next meeting by Diane Booth.

The CLA Strategy was not brought to this meeting.

Diane spoke to Fostering and Adoption report that was attached to the agenda and the Board were asked to note that there is a shortage of adopters and that a range of activities have been arranged to recruit more.

There was a request on data on how many foster carers become adopters. Diane Booth agreed to seek this information from the Head of Service.

8. Regulation 33 Inspections

Brendan Lee presented the attached powerpoint, informing the Board that there are 10 mainstream residential settings and eight overnight break units.

Elected Members have been receiving bite size briefings to enable them to carry out Regulation 22 visits.

County Councillor Prynne will draw up a timetable of visits for all Elected Members that have undertaken the training so these can be carried out as required as part of their role on the Corporate Parenting Board.

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

Apologies were made to the young people as the meeting had over run which would result in their time being shortened.

It was agreed that at the next meeting, the young people's item would be in the first half of the meeting.

It was noted that Mark (young person) had spoken at the Chairman's Dinner for Foster Carers on 23 April 2014 and that several carers had commented on what a fantastic speech he had delivered.

Congratulations were also passed on to the LINX group for their contribution to North West Regional Corporate Parenting Board Conference in February where they ran one of the workshops – Having your Voice Heard as a CLA.

LINX presented to the Board what they had been doing since the last CPB meeting and to elaborate on the ITV Fixers stereotyping work they had been doing. However due to staffing levels, this was now on hold and will inform the Board when work progresses on this.

One of the members of LINX is also a part of the Amplify Group and are looking at a new project to start on mental health for all children, however CLA will be playing a key part in this.

LINX took the Board through the Performance Report. Sue Parr commented that attendance figures for CLA were improving.

It was agreed that Sue Parr report back at the next meeting on attainments.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted its next scheduled meeting was to be held on Thursday, 19 June 2014 at 6.00pm with light refreshments available from 5.30pm.

12. Grant Funding Applications

This item was for information only.

13. In House Newsletter Special Edition (January 2014)

This item was for information only.

Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the LSCB

How often are the inspections?

- An inspection within the 3 year timeframe
- Seven suitably qualified and experienced inspectors will carry out the inspection. Six inspectors will be experienced in both the delivery and inspection of social care; one will be experienced in the inspection of education provision.
- Length of inspection – 4 weeks



Who does the inspection cover?

There are a wide range of children and young people included in this inspection. These include:

- Children and young people who are missing from education or being offered alternative provision
- Children and Young People Looked After
- Care Leavers

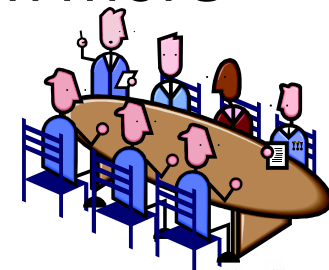


What will the inspectors look at?

- Children and young people's experience
- Scrutinising and discussing cases with:
 - Children and Young People, Parents and Carers
 - Social worker
 - Multi-agency team involved in the case
 - Fostering service, Fostering Panel Chair
 - Adoption service, Adoption Panel Chair
 - Virtual School Head

What will the inspectors look at?

- Work shadowing – Social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) etc
- Observation of multi-agency meetings – Child Protection Conferences, Core Groups, Children Looked After reviews, Family Group Conferences
- Case discussion with a range of professionals
- Inspectors will look at 100's of cases – some in more detail than others



What will the inspectors look at?

- Fostering Service
- Adoption Service
- Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)



How will they get children, young people and families views?

- Direct discussion
- Representative groups – Children in Care Council
- Advocates – Foster Carers, Residential staff
- Views that are recorded on case files
- Discussion with practitioners
- Annual questionnaires
- Compliments and complaints



Judgements

- the **Overall Effectiveness** of services and arrangements for children looked after, care leavers and children who need help and protection. Judgement made up from:
 - **the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection**
 - **the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence** including graded judgements on:
 - adoption performance
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers
 - **Leadership, Management and Governance.**

How will it affect the Corporate Parenting Board?

The following will be interviewed by inspectors:

- Corporate Parenting Board members
- Children in Care Council and/or group of Children Looked After
- Care Leavers



What will inspectors be looking at in respect to the Corporate Parenting Board?

- That it acts as strong and effective corporate parent for children looked after and those leaving care or who have left care
- That it is a committed corporate parent that knows the children and young people it looks after well. It is an effective and successful champion of their progress (particularly in education and learning) and an ambitious corporate parent, ensuring that each child has every opportunity to succeed

What will inspectors be looking at in respect to the Corporate Parenting Board?

- It actively challenges and engages partners where appropriate to support children and young people, such as engaging the local authority strategic housing function
- That the local authority knows itself well, and can demonstrate evidence of practice that is informed and sustainably improved by feedback about the quality of services and the experiences of children, young people and families who use them. This may, for example, include feedback from the children in care council

Examples of the Effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board

- The Corporate Parenting Board may want to identify examples/evidence of its effectiveness in being a champion for children and young people looked after and those who have left care
- The Corporate Parenting Board challenge and engagement in the progress of CLA education and learning
- Identify areas of challenge and engagement of partners
- The engagement of CLA/Care Leavers



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT

- ON ARRIVAL – REQUEST FOR I.D AND SIGN IN
- ENVIROMENT – WELCOMING, CLEAN AND IN GOOD ORDER
- STAFF AND YOUNG PEOPLE RELAXED AND FRIENDLY CREATING A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE
- A TOUR OF BUILDING – (COMMUNAL AREAS)

INFORMATION GATHERING

ONE METHOD OF INSPECTION IS TO –

- VIEW THE LOG BOOK AND IDENTIFY ANY AREA'S FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION
- TRACK THAT PARTICULAR EVENT –
- FOR EXAMPLE MISSING FROM HOME

MISSING FROM HOME

- IN ORDER TO TRACK THIS EVENT CERTAIN RECORDINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE –
- RECORD OF TIME REPORTED MISSING, LOG NUMBER AND RETURN IN LOG BOOK.
- INFORMATION IN YOUNG PERSONS FILE RE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EPISODE AND WHAT STAFF DID TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE BEFORE POLICE INVOLVEMENT

CONT

- ON RETURN RECORDING OF HOW WHERE WHEN ETC – IN MISSING FROM HOME BOOK
- SOCIAL WORK INVOLVEMENT – RETURN INTERVIEW, VISIT THE YOUNG PERSON
- MAYBE A RISK ASSESSMENT IS IN PLACE
- INTERVENTION MEETINGS WITH POLICE AND CSC
- KEY WORK SESSIONS TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PERSON

OTHER

- DISCUSSION WITH THE YOUNG PERSON, STAFF AND OTHER AGENCIES TO DETERMINE THAT A JOINED UP APPROACH IS WORKING TO SAFEGUARD THE YOUNG PERSON.

OTHER

- PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE, INDEPENDENCE PREPARATION AND EDUCATION, THIS IS BEST GATHERED BY HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND STAFF AND CAN BE FOLLOWED UP WITH DISCUSSION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.
- THERE WILL BE WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF THE ABOVE IF YOU NEED TO CROSS REFERENCE OR TRACK.



- 11th February – young people involved in the interviews for LCC Chief Executive
- 11th February – Elaine Roberts visits LINX to discuss the changes to the Pupil Premium Plus from April 2014
- 17th February – LINX attend North West Regional Corporate Parenting Conference and deliver a workshop entitled 'Having your Voice Heard as a CLA'



- 2 representatives have attended Youth Council Meetings
- 2 representatives have attended PULSE – young person's emotional Health and Well-Being Board Meetings
- 21st February – Young People attend 'Passport to Parliament' at Liverpool. The main topic discussed by Corporate parents, Children in Care Councils and Cabinet members was 'Education.'



- 22nd February – Primary LINX Activity Day
- 25th February – workers from Care Leavers Service attended LINX to answer questions/concerns about leaving care.
- 28th February – 2 members have attended a weekend residential trip with other 'Amplify' members and Dr Maggie Atkinson, discussing issues that affect children and young people nationally



- 3rd March – 3 new members attend the East Meeting after its relocation to Hyndburn Zone
- 11th March – Mike Sunderland visits LINX to consult with the young people on the Care Leavers' Strategy
- 15th March - Young People have been involved in the Children and Young Person's Plan – taking part in the film making



- 25th March – student social workers attend LINX meeting to discuss Children Looked After reviews
 - ITV Fixers visited LINX to discuss ideas for film around stereotyping Children Looked After
 - Independent Reviewing Officer visited LINX to discuss Safeguarding audit on missing children

- 25th March - 6 members met with CC Tomlinson and Interim Executive Director of Children's Services and members of Corporate Parenting board to discuss
 - The introduction on statutory guidance for children who go missing from home or care
 - Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms
 - - Extension of Staying Put to age 21.



- 29th March – Primary Activity Day in Central and North Lancashire
- 7th April – Primary members of LINX attend an Easter Craft session and receive donated Easter eggs from a local church
- 10th April – Members of LINX meet with deputy Chief executive of Barnardo's Diana Tickle



- 10th, 11th ,15th April – LINX are involved in making a film highlighting the topics that were covered in the Sexual Health Consultations for the Public Health Sexual Health Team.
- 15th April – LINX members attend Lancashire Participation Network Young Person's meeting.



- 17th April - 1 member sits on interview panel for play worker posts at Barnardo's
- 23rd April – 1 member attends Chairman's reception for Foster Carers and Adopters and is guest speaker at the ceremony.

