

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

## Agenda

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

*County Councillor Prynn*

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

**2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 6 February 2014 (5 mins)** (To Follow)

*County Councillor Prynn*

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

**3. What our Elected Members have been doing (5 mins)**

*County Councillor Prynn and other Elected Members*

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

**4. Action Sheet (5 mins)** (To Follow)

*County Councillor Prynn*

To discuss where the actions from previous meetings are up to.

### What Do We Need to Know

**5. CYPP (15 mins)** (Pages 1 - 16)

*Richard Cooke*

To receive the plan for information.

**6. New Inspection Framework (10 mins)**

*Bob Stott*

To receive an update.

7. **SEND Reforms, CLA Strategy and Adoption Agency Report May-Oct 2013 (10 mins)** (Pages 17 - 46)

*Diane Booth*

To receive an update on all three areas.

8. **Regulation 33 Inspections (5 mins)**

*Brendan Lee*

To receive an update.

### **What have our Young People been doing?**

9. **LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)** (Pages 47 - 54)

*Young People and Barnardos*

- Update on what LINX have been doing
- Feedback on Performance Report
- Pupil Premium
- Passport to Parliament
- Care Leavers Strategy

10. **Any Other Business**

*County Councillor Pryn*

To receive any other business.

11. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*County Councillor Pryn*

Thursday, 19 June 2014 at 6.00pm, The Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

### **Information Item**

12. **Grant Funding Applications** (Pages 55 - 66)

To note the attached document.

13. **In House Newsletter Special Edition (January 2014)** (Pages 67 - 88)

Special Edition on amendments to the Children's Home Regulations from January 2014.

# Agenda Item 2

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6th February, 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 Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
County Councillor Darren Clifford	- Lancashire County Council
Rachel Bland	- Fostering Representative

**Co-opted members**

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos

**Other Attendees**

Mark Elliott	- Clerk to the Board
Sam Gorton	- Governance Officer
Elaine Roberts	- ACERS
Kathryn Metcalfe	- ACERS
Sally Allen	- Safeguarding

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

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

County Councillors Dowding, Henig, Lord, Snape, Jane Simpson, Katherine Ashworth, Ismail Karolia, Louise Mackender de Cari, Nicola Bamford, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Sue Parr and Catherine Poole.

The Board also received the happy news that Catherine Poole, a member of the Board, had given birth to a baby girl.

## **2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 5 December 2013**

The notes of the previous meeting on 5 December 2013 were noted as an accurate record. There were no actions arising from the notes that were not going to be picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

## **3. What our Elected Members have been doing**

Members of the Board (County Councillor Beavers and the Chair) updated the Board on their activities since the last meeting.

These activities included attending events in Manchester sharing how authorities do things for CLA, visiting children's homes, working with head nurse at CCG East Lancashire and the LSCB with a view to making links with partners stronger.

Of particular note was the PROUD event which everyone deemed a great success. Sam was thanked for the organisation of the event and the nominees and winners were all applauded.

## **4. Action Sheet**

The action sheet was noted and all necessary actions would be followed up as appropriate.

## **5. What Does Our Performance Tell Us?**

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the performance data and concerns it had regarding the effect on CLA.

The Board asked that Mel Ormesher be asked to attend the Board in the Autumn to explain how the Early Action project is working and what effect it is having.

The recently formed Children's Social Care Panel which was set up to look at expensive placements would have an effect on what information is known on CLA.

The recently circulated questionnaire which had been prepared in partnership with Children's Society was raised though concern was expressed that the young people at the Board had not heard of it.

Regarding Children who go missing in response to concerns expressed by the young people it was agreed to invite a police representative to a Board meeting.

Concern was also raised about the use of pupil premium and the perceived lack of clarity as to what it's spent on and the fact that the designated teacher needs to be known to the CLA in the school.

## **6. Attainment of Children Looked After**

The Board received a presentation on the attainment of children looked after.

The Board in noting the information asked for figures which compared Lancashire against other local authorities.

## **7. IRO Annual Report**

The Board received an interactive presentation in the style of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire".

The Board thanked Sally and Mark for their presentation and noted the offer that any questions could be fed through LINX or direct to Mark via email.

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

The Board received an update on the activities undertaken by the young people.

These activities included being involved in the SCAYT+ feedback exercise, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the participation checklist which will be emailed to the Board.

The Board watched a short video clip which challenged the stereotypes of CLA. The Chair suggested that the young people might want to consider doing something similar.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Board was informed of two forthcoming events that they might be interested in:

The Passport to Parliament Event on 21 February in the Great Hall at Liverpool Hope University, and

The North West Regional Corporate Parenting Board Conference on 17 February.

## **10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Board noted its next scheduled meeting was to be held on Thursday 24 April starting at 6pm with light refreshments available from 5.30pm.

## **11. Ofsted Questionnaire Summaries**

The summaries were noted for information.

## **12. Grant Funding Applications**

The list of grant fund applications was noted. The Board were reminded that the funding would cease on 31 March 2014.

## Corporate Parenting Board – Action Sheet – as at 5 February 2014

You Said	We Said	Outcome
Pupil Premium - you wanted to know how they were used in schools for the young people they were provided for.	Through Louise Taylor the Executive Director for Children and Young People Barnardos has been asked to prepare a letter to all schools to find out how the money is used.	A letter has been drafted and a discussion was to take place with Sue Parr to agree how best to get in schools
Staying Put/Leaving Care – an update was needed on these important issues.	We would bring a report to the Board and it is on the agenda tonight.	<p>A leaving care leaflet was in production which would be shared with a future Board meeting.</p> <p>Regarding staying put the policy would be brought to a future Board meeting to review in light of the age limit going up to 21.</p>
Suicide – how many young people in care in Lancashire have died due to suicide.	We would research figures for CLA across Lancashire.	This would continue to be on the Board's radar and relevant information would be brought as and when appropriate.
Photographic Consent - an agreed policy across the whole of Lancashire is needed.	We would look at the current policy.	Work had been undertaken in this area and a policy had been developed and signed off by the cabinet member.
Inform a report to the All Party Parliamentary Group.	We would like the report to be shared with the Board.	Young People have been working on this and will share views with the Board.
CLA exclusions – concern over the number and the lack of information available to the Board.	The appropriate information be found and brought to a future meeting.	

Advocacy must be used more in relation to issues involving young people	The Board agreed to promote the use of advocacy on every appropriate occasion.	
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## **DRAFT**

### Children and Young People's Plan – 2014-2017

#### **A vision for Lancashire**

Being developed by young people

#### **Introduction to the Children and Young People's Plan**

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out how we want to work alongside children, young people and families and in doing so, the outcomes we want them to achieve. It is a statement of our collective ambition for how services, teams and individuals involved in improving the wellbeing of children and young people will work together in a way that provides the best support. It articulates our aspirations for children and young people and the families and carers that support them.

The Plan will ensure we are able to make the most of our resources, by focussing these around very clear and specific priorities. It is a plan that is informed by what we know about children, young people and families in Lancashire, but more importantly it is driven by what they are telling us.

Whilst we expect all families in Lancashire to achieve, as a minimum, the outcomes set out in this Plan, we will focus our collaborative efforts on those that will need additional support to do this. We recognise that many families in Lancashire are thriving and this Plan is about those more vulnerable in our communities and enabling them to thrive also.

The starting point for this new Plan is extremely strong. We have huge amounts of evidence to show where we have worked together and made a real and lasting difference to children and young people's lives.

This is also a period of unprecedented and sustained change across all public services and this is having considerable impact on our capacity to meet the growing needs of children and young people. This, however, will not dampen our commitment to ensuring that all children and young people are able to fulfil their potential and achieve the best they possibly can, although this may mean working in a different way.

This Plan provides the framework for how we intend to meet this challenge. How we will reshape services and deliver them differently. How we adopt an approach around working 'with' families rather than delivering services 'to' them. How those services respond to the needs of families but also recognise and build on the strengths that they already have.

All families, whatever their situation, have many strengths, as do the communities in which they live. We need to ensure that these strengths are the starting point for how we work alongside children, young people and families. We want to focus on these strengths and ensure that families are able to build the resilience that will enable them to thrive in everyday life.

Louise Taylor – Chair, Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust Board

## **Lancashire the place**

Lancashire is a wealth of resources and diversity and it is these that provide a fantastic platform for how we want to work families that live here.

- Large – Lancashire covers 3,075 square kilometres and is home to 1.461 million people (276,000 are children and young people).
- Diverse – there are over 140 different languages spoken by children attending schools in Lancashire
- Extremes – there are communities in Lancashire that are amongst the wealthiest in the country and there are also communities that are amongst the most disadvantaged
- Facilities – there are a vast array of services for children and young people provided from a number of settings including 76 children centres, 632 schools, 8 colleges, 48 leisure centres, 11 youth zones, 9 mobile young people's centres and 74 libraries.
- Excellence – 100% of colleges judged outstanding, 91% of children's centres judged good or outstanding, 82% of schools judged good or outstanding
- Geography – a mix of urban, rural and coastal communities spread across 12 district councils: Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Wyre.

## **Our partnerships structures**

Many children and young people experience points in their lives when they need support from more than one service. During these times it is important, for a number of reasons, that these services work well together and that the support they provide is effective and co-ordinated. This will ensure that the family is truly at the centre of this support and is able to determine how this support is delivered.

There are countless examples of where this multi agency support has been hugely successful in ensuring improved outcomes for families. But when services do not work well together this can lead to families feeling frustrated, outcomes not achieved and resources wasted. Strategic partnerships play an important role in ensuring that we all work together well, sharing information, pooling resources, agreeing priorities and building an understanding of different service areas.

In Lancashire we have committed to working better together and the Children and Young People's Plan is the single point of reference that describes how we are going to do this and what we want to achieve. In doing so we are clear that we will continually review our partnership structures to ensure there is appropriate accountability across all partner organisations. Making sure we deliver improved outcomes for families through clear and decisive leadership.

### **Who is going to work together to deliver this Plan?**

The most significant and valuable resource that will be involved in delivering the outcomes highlighted in this Plan are the children, young people and families of Lancashire.

The following services, sectors and organisations will work alongside families to provide the support that they need to achieve these outcomes:

Children's Centres  
District Councils  
Further Education Colleges  
Private Sector  
Job Centre Plus  
Lancashire Constabulary  
Lancashire County Council  
Lancashire Fire and Rescue  
Lancashire Sport  
National Health Service  
Schools  
Universities  
Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

### **What has changed?**

So much has changed since we agreed the last Children and Young People's Plan in 2011 and it is worth noting some of the key changes as they will form the context for how we will work together in delivering this new Plan over the next three years.

#### ***Locally***

**Common Assessment Framework** - working with families to assess their strengths and agree how they are able to address the issues they face and the support we can provide to make this happen. We have refreshed the Common Assessment Framework and this went live in October 2013. The new CAF is very much focussed

on the whole family and will shift the emphasis from simply assessment, to assessment and planning.

**Demand** – there are many services for children and young people in Lancashire that are seeing rising numbers of referrals and requests for support. In some instances these are rising on a month by month basis and are at levels that have not previously been seen, creating a growing pressure on statutory and other services.

**Continuum of Need** – we have updated the Continuum of Need so that there is clarity for practitioners in identifying levels of need with families and the appropriate service response to these. This helps to ensure that we can better meet or prevent the escalation of need and support and de-escalation from statutory services.

**Working Together with Families** – to reduce the number of services working with families and so reduce the duplication, cost and long term dependence on services. The focus is on services working smarter alongside families to increase resilience. We are already working with hundreds of families across Lancashire who face significant and multiple issues. Ensuring that each family has a named lead worker to co-ordinate the support they need.

**Public sector capacity** – the economic downturn has seen unprecedented cuts to public sector budgets. This will continue over the life course of this Plan and will dramatically reduce the resources available to support families in Lancashire.

**Early support and intervention** – looking at how we work with families and where the opportunities are to provide support as early as possible. We can stop the development of issues that can often, and over time, become more significant challenges for families requiring a far more intensive response from services.

**Review of partnerships** – there is a strong history of successful partnership working in Lancashire and we know that where services work together, that families can achieve the best outcomes. We are also clear that we will continually review our partnership structures to ensure that they are fit for purpose, cost effective and are able to show they make a difference to the lives of families in Lancashire.

### ***Nationally***

**SEND reforms** – the way we support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is changing. SEND reforms will deliver this by implementing a new approach which joins up the system across education, health and care, from birth to 25. Local authorities will provide help at the earliest possible point, with SEND children and young people and their parents fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. It is anticipated that this will lead to better outcomes, and more efficient ways of working.

**Welfare reforms** - major changes have been implemented under the Welfare Reform Act 2012, which also set out the future restructure of the whole working age benefits system. Whilst the impact of these changes is not yet fully understood the

scale of the changes is significant and will impact on large numbers of families in Lancashire.

**Working Together** – this was updated in 2013 and clarifies the core legal requirements for agencies to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This makes it much clearer around the expectations for individuals and organisations to keep children safe.

**Health reforms** – the Health and Social Care Act brings in the most wide-ranging reforms of the NHS since it was founded in 1948. On 1 April 2013 the main changes set out in the Act came into force, and most parts of the NHS will be affected in some way. Key changes include the establishment of Clinical Commissioning Groups, the National Health Service Area Team for Lancashire, local authority responsibility for much of the public health function and the development of health and wellbeing boards. In Lancashire the Health and Wellbeing Board has developed a strategy and agreed that the children and young people's element ('Starting Well') will be aligned and delivered through this Plan.

**Safeguarding inspection framework** – from November 2013 the way in which the arrangements for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers are inspected has changed. Three key judgements will be made and will focus on: the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence; and leadership, management and governance. The effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board will also be assessed in how it delivers its scrutiny and challenge of safeguarding practice. From April 2015, an additional multi agency element of the inspection will be added to evaluate the contribution of core statutory partners to the care and protection of children.

**Police and Crime Commissioner** – these were elected in November 2012, are responsible for all policing and holding the police accountable to the communities they serve. They aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

**Education system reforms** – schools are a key universal setting in determining positive outcomes for children and young people and have increasing autonomy in how they achieve this. In addition, from May 2013, local authorities are inspected on how well they ensure high standards and the fulfillment of potential in schools and other education and training providers.

**Children and Families Bill** – introducing major reforms for how we work with families. For example in October 2013 reforms to the family court system came into place to reduce unnecessary delay in care and supervision cases and to promote better co-operation between all parties involved. This new Public Law Outline introduces a number of changes which are all designed to ensure that all care cases are concluded within 26 weeks from the date of issue.

## **Some of our successes**

There has been lots of fantastic progress in the way we support children and young people and through the review of the priorities in the last Plan we are able to highlight some of the areas where we have made a difference:

- Dozens fewer children and young people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- Hundreds fewer teenage conceptions
- More than a thousand fewer first time offenders
- More than one hundred fewer children permanently excluded from school
- Hundreds more children achieving 5 GCSEs grades A\* to C including English and Maths
- A record number of care leavers attending University
- Thousands more young people choosing not to drink alcohol and hundreds choosing not to smoke
- Hundreds fewer young people not in employment, education or training

## **Some of our challenges**

In doing this we also need to be mindful that a number of children and young people in Lancashire face significant challenges and we need to be clear how this Plan will better support these vulnerable groups.

- There are over two hundred more children that are looked after
- There are over two hundred more children on a child protection plan
- The average number of referrals per month has remained stable
- There were nearly 750 more reported incidents of domestic violence involving children
- There are over 170 more reception and year 6 children either overweight or obese
- There are hundreds more children eligible for free school meals
- Although the Key Stage 4 attainment levels for pupils eligible for free school meals is improving, the Lancashire performance is still below that seen nationally for this group
- Lancashire's roads are still amongst the most unsafe in the country for children and young people

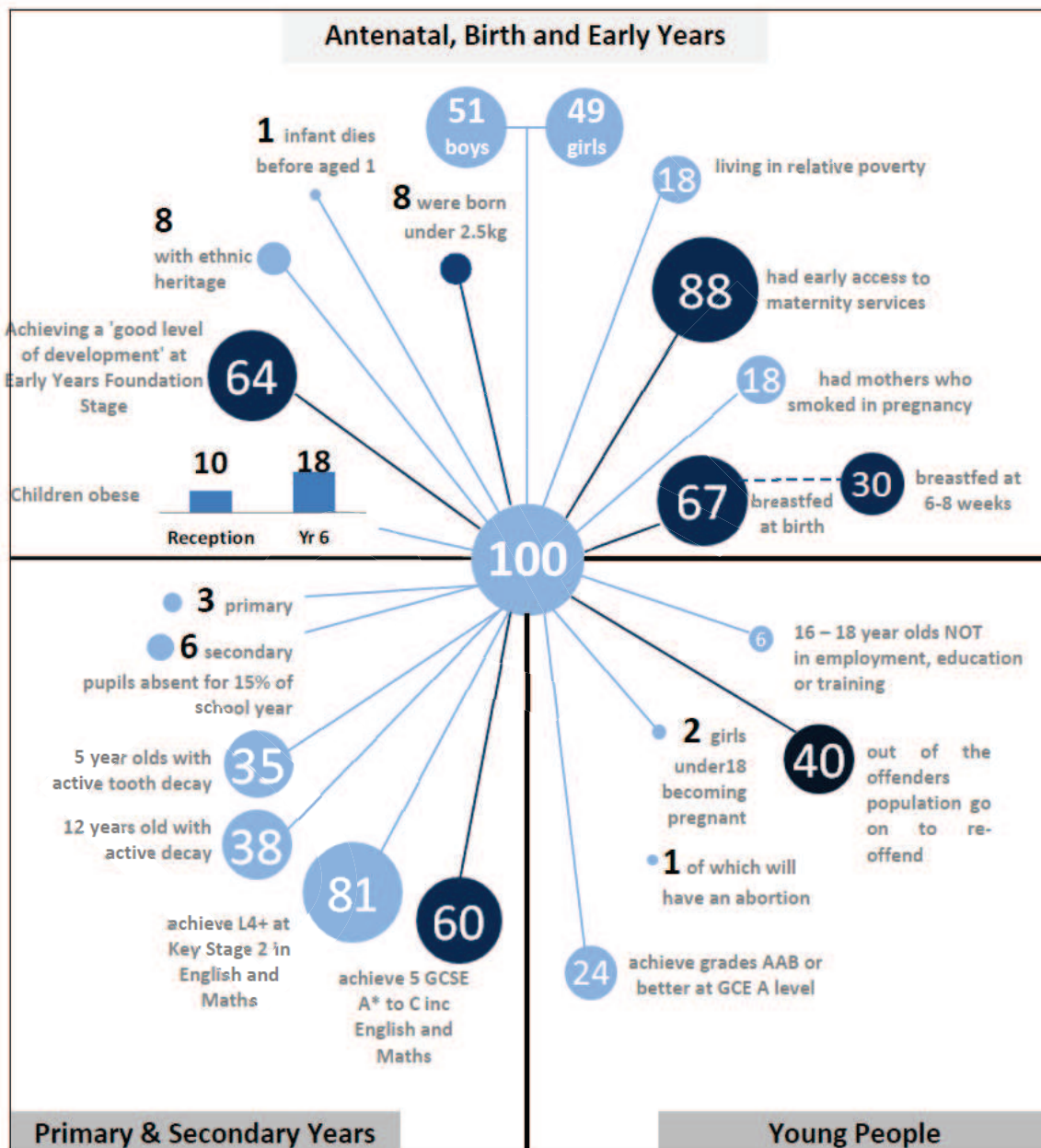
## **What do we know?**

We have completed a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which has helped us to develop a shared understanding of the needs and inequalities facing children and young people in Lancashire. The JSNA uses a wide range of data from various sources and provides analysis of the current and future needs of children and young

people. This assessment forms part of the evidence base for the priorities in this Children and Young People's Plan.

The JSNA is also now hosted on a web platform which will ensure we are able to update the information with the latest data releases, ensuring an ongoing and robust evidence base in planning and commissioning activities for families.

The diagram below shows some of the key data from the 2013 JSNA depicted in the style of, if Lancashire was a village of 100 children.....



## **What do children and young people want?**

There is a strong track record in Lancashire around how we talk to, work with and engage with children and young people and because of this there are lots of examples of how we have changed the way we deliver services to better suit the needs of families.

We have ensured that children and young people from a diverse range of backgrounds have taken the opportunity to inform the priorities of this Plan. They have been involved from the outset as part of our collective commitment to understanding the strengths and needs of families.

Children and young people from across the County have taken part in events, activities, consultations and completed questionnaires and have told us clearly what living in Lancashire is like and what their aspirations for the future are. They have told us:

- They want to feel safe
- They want to do well
- They want to be happy
- They want to be healthy
- They want people to listen to them

## **Children rights and responsibilities**

The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of a Child in 1989 and this was subsequently adopted by the UK government in 1991. It is a set of promises that governments make and how they will respect, protect and fulfil children's rights.

These promises can be broadly broken down into three key strands:

- Provision - use maximum available resources, support and respect parents and families, ensure children's survival and development, provide best possible health care, education, welfare support and play
- Protection - non-discrimination, promotion of children's best interests and well-being, separation from parents only where in child's best interests
- Participation - right to birth registration, name and nationality, right to express a view and have it taken into account; freedom of expression

There is already much we do in Lancashire that strongly supports our commitment to children's rights for example, through schools, through the Lancashire Children's Rights Service, the Active Participation Strategy and many others.

We want to build on these examples of good practice so that we can demonstrate the rights of children and young people permeate throughout the design, planning and delivery of the services we provide to support them.



## Our key principles

There are a number of themes that have developed over the previous years, and continue to develop, that are fundamental to our future approach. It is important that we take this learning and highlight it in this Plan so that there is clarity and consensus around the principles that underpin how we will work together. These key principles include:

**Prioritising vulnerable groups** – we want to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Lancashire, however, we know that there are many groups of children that are particularly vulnerable and will find it more difficult to secure those positive outcomes. We need to be clear that these are a focus for our services and we will work hard to ensure that we will provide proportionally more support and resources for these groups

**Maintaining a family focus** – whilst this is a Plan about how we intend to support better outcomes for children and young people we recognise a significant factor in how successful this is, is the family and support around the child. We are committed to supporting the whole family so that we can work together in the best interests of the child.

**Identifying support early** – we know that very often the outcomes for families are far better if we are able to identify issues and provide the appropriate support at the earliest opportunity. We also know that this is a far better use of resources

**Building resilience** – we want to work 'with' families and not do 'to them'. We want families to take ownership of the issues they are facing and to help them build the skills, understanding and confidence to overcome them.

**Promoting localism** – this Plan sets out a clear tone and direction for how we will work with families across Lancashire. To deliver these improved outcomes, partner organisations will collaborate locally to understand the needs and assets of a community and develop priorities that align with this Plan and other complementary developments, projects and strategies.

**Recognising community assets** – every child, young person, family and community has a wealth of strengths and assets. This should be the starting point for our conversations with families. Identifying their strengths and looking at how we can build on these and work with the family to overcome the issues they are facing while building their support networks. We also need to be aware of the physical assets in a community, the public spaces, buildings and resources that families can access.

**Raising aspirations** – we want children and young people to achieve the very best that they can and we want them to aspire to be the very best that they can. We will ensure that we create the stimulus, environment and the support that enables this.

**Enabling workforce development** – by far the biggest asset and resource that we have to support children and young people is the thousands of practitioners that work with them on a daily basis. We need to ensure that they have the skills and

confidence to continue to offer the highest quality services, and how changes can be made to work together better across sectors to help us continually improve.

**Better commissioning** - we will work with communities to use the commissioning process to understand needs and assets, to plan and design ways to make the best use of resources to improve outcomes for families and to review the impact of services.

### **How are we going to work better together?**

In 2011 there was collective agreement from all partners around a set of key principles that we need to embed across the services that support families in Lancashire. These still hold true as an important pointers for how we will work with families:

Shared Locations - we will encourage and provide opportunities for professionals to work together in multi agency hubs.

Shared Information – we will develop the process, systems, understanding and confidence so that we share information about families, safely, appropriately and effectively.

Shared Ownership – we will maintain a shared and sustained responsibility for ensuring that the outcomes families have agreed, are achieved.

Shared Engagement – we will join up assessment processes and ensure that we minimise the number of staff involved with a family and where appropriate we will co-ordinate these through a lead professional.

Shared Delivery – we will bring together information, resources and capacity so that we deliver and commission services that are efficient and effective.

### **Our commissioning approach**

The Children and Young People's Commissioning Framework has been agreed and provides clear direction for how we will commission new services. This Framework is underpinned by the 'life course' approach, which is widely used within the health sector, and we will adopt this when commissioning services that support the delivery of this Plan. We will focus on ensuring that people are 'engaged and ready' at the different stages of life.

Using the National Health Service and Public Health Outcomes Frameworks, the Marmot Review 2011 and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 a shared set

of outcomes has been developed and the Children and Young People's Plan is strongly aligned with these overarching outcomes.

The shared outcomes for Lancashire are:

Strong Families	Healthy People	Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient families who have the capability and capacity to deal with life's challenges.</li> <li>• Relationships within families are positive and free from violence.</li> <li>• Children are safe, protected from harm and have the best start in life.</li> <li>• Families are able to support and provide care for each other within their own community and are able to access additional support, advice and guidance from supporting organisations when necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babies and children are immunised against disease and are breastfed.</li> <li>• Children, young people and adults have good physical health; they are a healthy weight and have good sexual and oral health.</li> <li>• People lead active lifestyles and have good emotional health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are safe, strong and resilient and the community supports itself.</li> <li>• Communities are free from poverty and paid employment is accessible and achievable.</li> <li>• Individuals have and make use of positive social connections within their communities.</li> <li>• Communities benefit from sustainable economic growth, a protected and improved environment and improved roads and transport.</li> </ul>

### Our commitment

There will be times in the lives of families when they need additional support to overcome the challenges they face. It is at these times, when a family is *just coping* or *struggling to cope*, that we need to be clear about how services and families will work together and the expectations they should have of each other....

**Services** will work alongside families, listening to their needs and ensuring the support they provide enables them to achieve positives outcomes. This support will be manageable, coherent and effective, will build on the existing strengths of that family and will reduce as the family is better able to cope and ultimately thrive.

**Families** will want the best for their children and young people and will play a lead role in identifying and taking the steps necessary, so that they can overcome the challenges they face. Families will be engaged and responsive in working alongside services so that children and young people experience a sustained improvement in their circumstances.

## CYPP 2014 – 2017 - Key outcomes and measures

In Lancashire, we want all children and young people to:

- Feel safe
- Do well
- Be happy
- Be healthy
- Be listened to

But we also recognise that in many instances children, young people and families will engage with universal services, will successfully achieve these outcomes and are **thriving**.

The key focus for this Plan will be those families that are going to need some additional support, those families that are, for whatever reason, **just coping** or who are **struggling to cope**. Ensuring that this additional support, enables them to also thrive, and build towards the sorts of aspirations that we should expect for all children and young people.

### Outcome 1 - To feel safe

#### Key measures

- Children and young people on Child Protection plans
- Incidents of domestic abuse involving children and young people
- Children and young people who are Looked After
- Children and young people recorded as missing by the Police
- Children and young people killed or seriously injured on Lancashire's road
- Referrals for neglect leading to action
- Children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation

#### What will we do?

- We will develop and deliver integrated services so that children and young people receive effective and timely early help and protection
- We will work alongside families so that they are able to build their resilience and cope better
- We will ensure that the right children and young people become looked after and manage the increase in demand whilst delivering safe child protection
- We will develop and embed our early support approach so that families can access coherent support through multi agency hubs.
- We will ensure that travelling on our roads is as safe as possible for children and young people

### Outcome 2 - To do well

#### Key measures

- Children and young people performing at expected level at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4
- Positive destinations post Key Stage 5
- Children and young people's going to good or better schools and colleges

- Young people who are Not in Education Employment or Training
- Numbers of first time offenders
- Numbers of children and young people living in poverty
- Care leavers in employment, education or training
- Care leavers in suitable accommodation.
- Young people who are Looked After achieving five A-C GCSEs

#### What will we do?

- We will ensure that children and young people can develop the skills, experiences and aspirations to be successful in the future workforce
- We will support parents so that they can better help their children to fulfil their potential
- We will ensure that young people leaving care receive the support they need
- We will implement the SEND reforms so that children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities receive effective care and support
- We will ensure that support is available for vulnerable children and young people so that they are able to perform well in education
- We will better understand child poverty in Lancashire and target resources and support to those in most need

#### Outcome 3 - To be happy

##### Key measures

- Children and young people who get on well with others
- Children and young people who enjoy after school activities
- Children and young people who are rarely or never bullied
- Young people admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm
- Children and young people who are adopted
- Children and young people who participate in positive activities

#### What will we do?

- We will ensure children and young people wherever possible will live at home with their families and where this is not possible they will be found permanent homes and families without unnecessary delay and with minimum disruption.
- We will ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children
- We will promote and enable access to positive activities for all children and young people
- We will reduce bullying in all its forms and particularly focus on e-safety

#### Outcome 4 - To be healthy

##### Key measures

- Parents smoking at time of delivery
- Low birthweight babies
- Mothers initiating and continuing breastfeeding
- Immunisation rates
- Obese children in Reception Class and Year 6
- Emergency admissions for children and young people with lower respiratory tract infections

- Unplanned hospitalisation of children and young people for asthma, diabetes and epilepsy
- Teenage conception rate and screening rate for Chlamydia
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Children and young people taking part in sport and physical exercise

What will we do?

- We will use the Healthy Child Programme as a basis for our activity
- We will ensure that mothers have a healthy pregnancy
- We will reduce infant mortality
- We will reduce the number of emergency admissions due to asthma, diabetes and epilepsy
- We will ensure that children and young people are able to access a range of quality sports activities

Outcome 5 – To be listened to

Key measures

- Children, young people and families actively inform assessment processes and subsequent planning
- Children and young people actively engaging in decision making process and systems
- Children and young people assessing and inspecting services
- Children and young people, including those who are vulnerable, are represented by formal participation structures

What will we do?

- We will ensure that the way we provide support to children and young people is driven by what they tell us
- We will ensure that children and young people are listened to, practice is focused on their needs and experiences and influenced by their wishes and feelings or, where they cannot represent their view themselves, that these are advocated for upon their behalf.
- We will embed the principle of 'tell us once' across all services
- We will continue to increase the diversity of children and young people engaged in formal participation structures and opportunities
- We will work together to co-ordinate how we consult with children and young people and ensure that we feedback to them what difference this has made
- We will ensure that we are achieving quality participation across Lancashire by sharing tools and mechanisms to embed, measure and recognise active participation

Leadership, management and governance of this Plan

Key measures

- Conclude, agree and implement the County wide partnership review
- Mechanism in place to provide timely and clear information to highlight progress and challenges in delivering the outcomes of this Plan
- Demonstrate transparent multi agency decision making driven by robust data and intelligence

- Refresh the children and young people's workforce strategy and align resources and capacity to enable delivery
- Embed an asset based approach across services and commissioning for children and young people
- Agree a Memorandum of Understanding that articulates the accountabilities, expectations and responsibilities across key strategic partnerships in delivering improved outcomes for families

What will we do?

- We will continually review our partnership structures to ensure that they are effective and sustainable
- We will ensure that that our workforce has the necessary skills, experience and confidence to provide the best possible support to children and young people
- We will put in place clear arrangements and effective working between strategic partnership bodies in Lancashire
- We will ensure that there are robust systems, processes and reporting to provide clear understanding of the needs of children, young people and families and progress being made to address these needs
- We will better understand the strengths and assets of families
- We will be responsive, decisive and coherent in addressing any areas of concern or underperformance





## LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) REFORMS FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

The Government's vision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in school and college; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and grow up to secure employment, live independently and participate in their community.

It is expected that the SEND reforms will deliver this by implementing a new approach which joins up the system across education, health and care, from birth to 25. Local authorities will provide help at the earliest possible point, with children and young people with SEN and their parents fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. It is anticipated that this will lead to better outcomes, and more efficient ways of working.

The Children and Families Bill makes significant changes to the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). The key proposals for children with SEN and their families are:

- Work with health and social care colleagues **jointly to commission services to deliver integrated support for children and young people with SEN aged 0-25.**
- **Consult children, young people and their parents, and cooperate with a range of local providers** across education, health and social care partners **to deliver the new system**, including post-16 education providers such as further education colleges and training providers.
- Engage local partners in, **co-producing** with parents and young people, and publishing, **a local offer of SEN services and provision** to assist young people in finding employment, obtaining accommodation and participating in society.
- Provide a **coordinated education, health and care assessment for children and young people aged 0-25, and new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans** that will replace the two existing systems of SEN statements (in schools) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (in further education and training).
- Offer those with EHC plans the **option of a personal budget.**
- Consider the **transition from children's to adult services** and whether to use a **new power to provide children's services to young people over 18 to smooth their transition.**
- Provide a **new system for resolving disputes** including disagreement resolution and complaints procedures, mediation, First-Tier Tribunals (SEND) and NHS Complaints-Healthwatch.

The Department for Education and the Department of Health are currently consulting on a new **0-25 SEN Code of Practice**, which will act as statutory guidance for the duties introduced by the Bill. A final Code of Practice will be published in Spring 2014.

**Sally J. Riley**

Head of Inclusion and Disability Support Service





## Fostering and Adoption

### Purpose of the report and Summary

This report explains some of the ways the local authority manages the care planning and adoption process so that delays for children don't happen. The report also explains what action we are taking in Lancashire to make sure we are doing things in the way the Government wants and most importantly of all says what we are doing to make sure we do things quickly enough for children who need to be placed with foster carers or adopted. The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with information and the chance to ask questions.

The Local Authority must make arrangements for there to be an Adoption Panel and a Fostering Panel. The Panels have an important role to play and check that good plans are being made for children and young people. The Chair of the Adoption and Fostering Panel is Independent. We have recently appointed a new Chair.

One of the jobs which the Chair of the Panel must do is to provide regular reports to the Director with information about the work that has been presented to the Panel.

### Key Information and Questions for Board Members

The Adoption Panel - recommends the approval of people who want to be adopters. The Adoption Panel also recommends which adopters are the best parents for particular children.

The Fostering Panel - recommends the approval of people who want to be Foster Carers including those who may be relatives of a child or be connected with them.

The Panel members are given lots of information to help them make the best suggestions which are then passed to the Agency Decision Maker who makes a final decision.

The Agency Report to the Fostering and the Adoption Panel provides a summary of all the matters the Panel has been asked to think about.

### Background

We know there are sometimes risks involved when we place children with Foster Carers or for adoption and we have to manage these risks. For hundreds of children every year their lives are improved by being placed with foster carers or by then being adopted. It is important though to make sure that we place children with people who are able to meet their needs, make them happy and help them to achieve.

Most children being placed with Foster Carers or for adoption have already had a lot of difficult things happen in their life. Social workers know how important it is for children to have settled placements that last at the earliest possible stage. We are already doing many of the things which the Government are suggesting. We know

the Fostering and Adoption Service in Lancashire has more to learn and we can probably do better. Children deserve no less. The Fostering and Adoption Service are working hard to find more people who are suitable to foster or adopt and to train them properly. The Agency Report to the Fostering and Adoption Panel gives lots of very detailed information about the way the Panel has worked and any improvements that have been made. The report also looks at things that we might need to improve or do in a different way.

Last year more adopters have been approved than in any previous year – 2013/14, 65 families were approved, 2012/13, 58 families, 2011/12, 46 families.

The number of children we have placed has improved – 2013/14 a total of 109 children were placed, compared to 83 in 2012/13 and 61 in 2011/12. .

The Adoption panel has met 34 times during the year.

The Fostering Service is working hard to make sure there are plenty of foster carers and to provide them with the support they need in order to meet the needs of the children who are placed with them.

The Fostering Panel has met 23 times during the year

## **WORK WE ARE DOING IN LANCASHIRE TO MAKE SURE WE CAN FIND GOOD FOSTER CARERS AND ADOPTERS**

- Using ways to find and prepare adopters and foster carers which makes sure we get the right kind of people for our children who need to be adopted.
- Use lots of different ways to find enough adopters and make sure that we train them well to care for the children we place with them.
- Work closely with other local authorities and learn from their good ideas.
- We are starting a new way of approving some people as adopters so that children do not have to change placements as often. To start with we hope to get 15 carers who we can have as both Foster and Adoptive Parents.
- Improving the way the Fostering and Adoption Panel works to make sure it does not slow things down.
- Improving the way we check and test out what we are doing in the Adoption Service and Children's Social Care and know what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

### **Decisions required**

The report is for information though questions may be asked of the report author.

*Report Author: Anne-Marie Ranson and Stasia Osiowy*

# **Agency Report to Adoption Panel**

**May 2013 – October 2013**

## **Introduction**

There is a requirement that Adoption Agency activity is reported twice a year to the Executive.

The service manager for Fostering is the Agency Decision Maker who makes the decisions about adoption cases after she has considered the recommendation of the Adoption Panel. There have been no cases during the period where the decision has differed from that recommended by the Panel.

The plan for a child will come before the Agency Decision Maker on two occasions – firstly for approval of an adoption plan for the child and second to approve the match. The Panel will consider the suitability of particular prospective adoptive parents for the child (approval of match).

Panel also recommends the approval of prospective adopters following assessment. Applicants are invited to attend the Panel when their approval is considered and when a match is proposed. As part of legislation the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) has been set up, where adopters may have their applications reconsidered when the Panel has not recommended their approval and the Agency Decision Maker is minded to turn down the application. The recommendation from this Panel then goes back to the Agency Decision Maker for a decision.

In some cases, where appropriate, cases have been presented to the panel for approval of prospective adopters, followed by a linking to a specific child.

Under the legislation, the Adoption Panel can also consider a brief assessment report, where it is felt that the assessment of prospective adopters should not continue. Brief reports only apply to Stage two. Applicants can also apply to the IRM if the Agency Decision Maker is minded to turn down an application in these circumstances. Applicants have forty working days to make this decision. There were no applications to the IRM during the period May 2013-October 2013.

The Adoption process in England and Wales is subject to a series of Government led changes to address delay, both for children who are waiting to be adopted and prospective adopters who wait to be assessed, approved and matched with the children who wait. This includes the focus on concurrency (A concurrent placement project is in place and successful in Lancashire), fostering for adoption (new legislation that is currently being looked at to devise appropriate policies around its implementation), the shorter timescales, new prospective adopters report and two stage process (all of which is now in place with the first cases now being presented to panel) and adoption reform grant funding that has been made available to address the shortage of adopters and related adoption issues.

## Children

<b>Information about children with a plan of adoption</b>	<b>Number</b>
How many children were presented at ADM Consultation meeting?	100
For how many of these children was adoption recommended?	92
For how many of these children was the care plan of adoption revoked?	8
How many recommendations for SHOPA were agreed	69
How many SHOPA recommendations were agreed within timescales	41
Current situation of children with SHOPA agreed between May – October 2013:	
5 x placed with adoptive family	
4 x matched at Panel but not yet placed	
8 x on hold with confirmed matching in progress	
16 x on hold awaiting Placement Order	
1 x change of plan in progress	
35 x family finding in progress	
How many children were made subject to a Placement Order?	50
How many children were matched with adopters?	65
Number of linkings presented within timescales (6 months of SHOPA)	13
How many children were placed with adopters?	63
How many children were placed within the required 6 month timescale from recommendation?	11
How many children were placed within 6 months from Placement Order?	16
How many children were subject to a final adoption order?	36
How many children were living with adopters, where the final adoption order had not been made? (as at 31 October 2013)	84

<b>Equalities information on children presented to ADM CONSULTATION (based on number of SHOPA decisions) TOTAL OF 69</b>	
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Number (individual children)</b>
<b>White</b>	
British	64
Other	
<b>Mixed</b>	
White and Black Caribbean	
White and Black African	
White and Asian	2
Other mixed	
<b>Asian</b>	
Indian	1
Pakistani	2
Bangladeshi	
Other Asian	
<b>Black</b>	
Black Caribbean	
Black African	
Other Black	
<b>Chinese</b>	



Chinese	
<b>Other</b>	
Any other background	
No information available	

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Number (individual children)</b>
Buddhist	
Christian	12
Hindu	
Muslim	3
Jewish	
None	
Other	
No information available	54

<b>Age (at time of SHOPA)</b>	<b>Number (individual children)</b>
0-1 year	32
1-2 years	13
2-3 years	9
3-4 years	9
4-5 years	2
5+ years	4

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>
Male	38
Female	31

<b>Number of children who have a disability:</b>	<b>Number (individual children)</b>
How many children have a disability?	0

<b>Information about sibling placements (based on placements for the period)</b>	<b>Number</b>
How many sibling groups were assessed to be adopted together?	24
How many sibling groups did you place together?	23
How many sibling groups were not placed together for adoption when the assessment was for them to be together?	1

<b>How many adoption placements have you made using the following?</b>	<b>Placements</b>
Lancashire County Council	40
Voluntary adoption agencies	11
Other local authorities	12

<b>Other information about all children and young people and their placements</b>	<b>Number</b>
How many unplanned endings of placements occurred?	0

<b>Comments:</b>
-

### Adopters

<b>Recruitment of adopters</b>	<b>Number</b>
How many initial enquiries to become adopters did you receive?	249
How many applications from people wishing to adopt did you receive?	Information not available
How many of these applications for approval as an adopter are still being assessed?	Information not available
How many applications did you approve?	27
How many applications for approval as an adoptive family were refused by the decision maker?	1
How many applications for approval were withdrawn?	0
How many applications or refusals were decided within 8 months of receipt of application?	Information not available
How many applications were referred to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM)?	0
How many referrals to the Independent Review Mechanism resulted in recommendations being made for your agency to review a decision?	0

<b>Approved adoptive families</b>	<b>Number</b>
How many approved adoptive families did your agency have at 31/10/2012?	61
Of the total number of approved adoptive families, how many were matched to children at 31/10/2012?	40
Of the total number of approved adoptive families, how many had a child in placement where the final adoption order had not been issued at 31/10/2012?	38
Number of recommendations for Approval of Prospective Adopters	27
Number of applicants approved within 6 months of application	8
Number of applicants approved within 7 – 9 months of application	16
Number of applicants approved 9+ months of application	3
How many adoptive families were granted a final adoption order?	21
How many adoptive families withdrew prior to a placement being made?	0

How many adoptive families withdrew following a placement being made?	0
How many foster carers were approved to adopt the child/children they were fostering?	4
How many families were approved under the Concurrency Scheme	1
<b>How long did adoptive families wait to be matched to a child? (based on the number of families matched in period)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Less than 2 months	7
At least 2 and less than 7 months	25
At least 7 and less than 11 months	3
11 months or more	0

<b>Equalities information on approved adopters (based on the number of families approved in period)</b>	
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Number (individual adopters)</b>
<b>White</b>	
British	50
Other	1
<b>Mixed</b>	
White and Black Caribbean	0
White and Black African	0
White and Asian	0
Other mixed	0
<b>Asian</b>	
Indian	0
Pakistani	0
Bangladeshi	0
Other Asian	0
<b>Black</b>	
Black Caribbean	0
Black African	0
Other Black	0
<b>Chinese</b>	
Chinese	0
<b>Other</b>	
Any other background	0
No information available	0

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Number (individual adopters)</b>
Buddhist	0
Christian	46
Hindu	0
Muslim	0
Jewish	0
None	5
Other	0

No information available	0
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Sexual orientation	Number (individual adopters)
Heterosexual	47
Lesbian	0
Gay	4
Bisexual	0
Other	0
No information available	0

Number of adopters who have a disability:	Number (individual adopters)
How many adopters have a disability?	1

**Definition of 'disability':** Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities. Examples include cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and heart conditions; hearing or sight impairments, or a significant mobility difficulty; and mental health conditions or learning difficulties.

Relationship status (per adoptive family)	Number (adoptive families)
Single	3
Married	18
Civil Partnership	2
Cohabiting heterosexual	4
Cohabiting same sex	0
Other	0

**Comments:**

-

### Adoption Support

Requests for adoption support assessments	Number
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How many requests for adoption support assessments did you receive?	Information not available
How many requests for adoption support assessment resulted in the provision of support?	Information not available
How many adoptive families are in receipt of financial support?	<b>115</b>

<b>Comments:</b>
-

<b>Contact – information to be obtained</b>		<b>Number</b>
How many new letterbox plans have been made?		Information not available
How many new direct contact plans have been made?		
How many existing contact plans have ceased?		
How many of these are as a result of:	the child reaching 18 years	
	the child's request	
	the birth parent's disengaging	
	the adopter's disengaging	

<b>Birth parent counselling</b>		<b>Number</b>
How many referrals for birth parent counselling were made?		Information not available
How many birth parents engaged with the service?		

<b>Comments:</b>
-

### **Monitoring the quality of the adoption agency**

<b>Children and young people subject to an adoption plan, matched or placed for adoption</b>
<b>How do you ensure that adoptive placements that will meet children's needs are provided?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Workers, Foster Carers and Reviewing Officers all focus on promoting children to express their views and for this to be acted upon where applicable.</li> <li>• Reviews take place during the period of introductions and post placement in order to ensure that the adoptive placement continues to meet the needs of the child/ren, undertaking direct work with children to ascertain their views in relation to the qualities they view as being important in their permanent carers, age appropriately.</li> <li>• Ensure Child Permanence Reports are updated and accurately reflect the needs of the child.</li> </ul>

- Carry out Child Appreciation Meetings for older children to ensure that adopters have a good understanding of a child's needs prior to Adoption Panel and placement.
- Clear advice and an understanding of the medical and educational needs of children are given, through discussions beforehand and then followed up with discussion by the medical advisor and educational psychologist on panel.
- Thorough screening of prospective adopters in being able to meet the children needs for who they have a preference.
- Use all available resources to identify adoptive placements for children including the Adoption 22 Consortium, National Adoption Register, Exchange Days and Be My Parent publications. Planning of Lancashire County Council's first adoption activity day is now ongoing, which is scheduled for early next year in collaboration with 2 other local authorities from the North West and 2 adoption agencies.
- Adopter families with children newly placed are invited to groups held around the county for adopters with children just placed to attend – run by the post adoption support team.
- Prospective adopters have the opportunity to access a baby and beyond course that has been developed in coordination between a child care centre and the fostering service in preparing foster carers and adopters to understand their role in caring for babies in the safest way.
- Training and preparation of adoptive parents is extensive and prepares them with an understanding of some of the difficulties children experience as a result of their previous experiences and the impact of this on how they would parent their adopted children.
- Post approval training is offered to adopters to support them in meeting children's needs, including workshops on attachment, adoption and adolescence, nurturing based on thera-play techniques, education and adoption, contact, life-story books and telling issues.
- Post adoption support includes therapeutic intervention to adoptive families.
- Currently social workers within the adoption service are being trained in the Solihull approach for foster carers and adopters, which will then be rolled out so that all social workers in the adoption service will be trained in this approach. This will allow them to prepare and support adopters in understanding the challenges children face and learn ways in which to build relationships within the context of challenges, with better management of behaviour following.
- Post adoption support is provided to adoptive parents through a day-time support group to provide advice and support in relation to meeting children's needs. There are currently three groups geographically spaced across Lancashire. Regular visits are undertaken to children placed for adoption. These visits take place weekly for the first four weeks of placement and thereafter at a minimum of four weekly. This ensures that adopters are adequately supported in meeting children's needs, and also that the child/ren are having their needs met.
- Even though children awaiting adoption is fast tracked on a traffic light system (from time of placement order) to avoid delay, all children that are identified as needing adoptive placements are offered this opportunity where a family is sought for them, despite their complex needs. This might at times imply a delay in terms of timescales, and although cases are not allowed to drift, a longer timescale at times results in a successful match and therefore a better outcome for children.
- A backlog in the children awaiting adoption has necessitated that some assessments have now been outsourced to an independent agency (paid from grant funding), with assessments likely to conclude at panel in March 2014. There is also an increasing amount of assessments being completed independently by social workers from a pool, ensuring we recruit enough adopters within the coming year to meet the needs

of the children. When enough adopters are recruited, the placement choice is also widened ensuring more stringent matching. Alongside this there has been the opportunity to use the grant funding for placements outside of Lancashire and the North West, which has led to an increase in the amount of children placed.

- Post adoption adopters who have adopted children with complex needs and struggling within this, are invited to attend a support group to allow for reflection and having their emotional needs met.
- Continuous and clear adoption marketing strategies in line with the needs of children awaiting adoption, currently coinciding with the national adoption week and being promoted through various forms to reach a wide variety of people.

### **How well do children progress in their health, learning and emotional and social development?**

- We have links with the Education Support Team for looked after children and Education Psychology Service, allowing accessing a range of activities for children within and outside educational settings.
- The adoption service commission in house therapeutic services via SCAYT+. This is an in-house educational facility staffed with two educational psychologists and other staff trained in thera-play and therapeutic intervention techniques.
- Access for children in adoptive placements before an adoption order are granted, to the children looked after nurses, with regular health assessments undertaken.
- We prepare clear Adoption Support Plans addressing educational issues for children placed with adopters.
- We address the cultural and religious needs of children who are placed in foster care and when being matched with adopters.
- Post adoption support assessments consider the educational and social needs of adopted children.
- Preparation Groups address the social and educational needs of children. Post adoption training for adopters helps them to develop knowledge and skills on meeting the emotional needs of their adopted child/ren.
- Child Permanence Reports record the educational and social needs of children.
- Assessments of prospective adoptive families consider their participation in activities suitable for a child including healthy pursuits e.g. walking, swimming.
- Robust health and safety audits are carried out as part of the assessment of both foster carers and adoptive carers.
- Advice is offered to schools on a one to basis to support the educational agencies in understanding the needs of adopted children. This is often in partnership with SCAYT+. This includes focussing on the triggers surrounding transitions.
- It is planned that a joint partnership will be undertaken with Caritas Care, whereby schools will attend workshops to offer a more in depth approach that will also be preventative to maximise placement stability. No update information on this available.
- All children placed for adoption should have life story books and a later life letter to inform their sense of identity and give them an understanding of the reasons for them being placed for adoption. This contributes to the emotional wellbeing of adopted children. There is a protocol, which is currently being looked at to ensure that practice within Lancashire County Council is in line with National Minimum Standards.
- The concurrent placement scheme enhances the child's emotional security and well being by minimising placement moves. This scheme has been successful to date with no disruptions and no rehabilitations to date, although contact was supported.



Alongside the concurrency, the local authority is now planning towards a policy on fostering for adoption, after legislation changed in July 2013. This should be concluded and ready for use by end of 2013.

- The process of bridging from foster care to adoption has at times been strenuous. This is being looked at as a training course by the fostering service to support especially new carers in this role so that the placement move can be made positive for the child that will enhance their ability to attach appropriately with their new parents. In the meantime foster carers are supported by experienced foster carers in this role.

### **How do you ensure that the adoption agency contributes to promoting good outcomes for children and young people?**

- The adoption team makes use of appropriate local resources such as Children's Centres. We have developed closer links with Education Psychology Services in supporting children placed for adoption.
- Close working relationships with children centres, hosting support groups at these venues, and working in partnership re the baby and beyond preparation course.
- All children placed for adoption by Lancashire County Council have an adoption support plan which identifies their needs, the support needed, by whom to allow them to reach their full potential. Adoption support needs can be reviewed at any time until the child reaches eighteen years.
- The concurrent placement scheme is enhancing placement stability through minimising placement moves of the child thereby enhancing the child's emotional security. Fostering for adoption will offer similar positives to the children.
- A diverse training programme is continuously rolled out, also for the wider services and teams the adoption agency works with. This included training of the child permanence reports, children whose care plan changes from adoption, contact, legislation, life story work, difficulties children who are placed for adoption could experience, and managing such difficulties, working with birth families, and attachment. A new revised training on a holistic view of the principles underlying adoption is now being devised, that will offer social workers an understanding of how from an early stage in being involved with a family, certain aspects of adoption needs to be considered in order to avoid delay for the child.
- Advice is followed from legislation guidance and guidance from BAAF. At the moment changes are being developed in terms of fostering for adoption, activity days and the recruitment of more carers which are enabling more placements, all contributing to better outcomes for the children.

### **What do children and young people say about your service and how do they contribute to its development?**

- Every effort is made to ensure children's participation in their reviews in an age appropriate way; verbally, through a DVD, a picture etc.
- Children with a plan for adoption who are placed with Local Authority Foster Carers participate in health assessments which facilitates the identification of Action Points, focusing on the views and needs of looked after children.
- Children placed with adoptive carers pending the making of an Adoption Order are seen within the national government guidelines by their allocated Social Worker from the Adoption Team. During these visits, children are seen on their own, if of an appropriate age, and their wishes and feelings are ascertained.
- The views of children/young people are ascertained when Social Workers prepare

Child Permanence Reports and Adoption Support Plans. These plans are scrutinised by the agency advisor, the Adoption Panel and the Agency Decision Maker.

- Assessments for Post Adoption Support take account of the wishes and feelings of children and young people. We listen to young people about their wishes and feelings and as far as possible incorporate these in their support plan.
- Where children are being prepared to move to an adoptive family, their views are considered and individual work is undertaken with young people, taking account of their particular interests, views and feelings. This is undertaken by their social worker who is in close and regular contact with the assessing social worker, following such individual work with children.
- When planning and facilitating direct contact with parents, siblings and members of their extended family pre and post adoption, the views of young people are sought and considered. We undertake work re contact and the child's wishes pre court proceedings and advice is given about contact when seeking a decision that a child should be placed for adoption.
- We hold the Adoption Celebration Event which is very well attended by adopters and their children both birth and adopted.
- Feedback forms are being developed in the post adoption support team, to collate feedback on the support and quality of this. No update on this available.

## **Working with adopters**

### **How do recruitment, assessment, training and supervision of adopters promote positive outcomes for children and young people?**

- Monthly Information Evenings are held for prospective adopters. This ensures that adopters have an understanding of some of the issues facing adopted children and adoptive parents prior to committing to the process.
- Part of the assessment process now includes a support group visit. Prospective adopters are now encouraged to bring people from their support network to learn more about adoption. Feedback from both adopters and their support network has been positive.
- A shorter time frame for adoption assessments became legislation July 2013. This allows now for a speedier process and a more concise prospective adopters report. The first of these have started being presented at the adoption panel. The detail and thoroughness of the assessment process has remained the same.
- Lancashire County Council provides training to adopters both prior to and post a child being placed with them. This training includes support and advice in relation to building positive relationships with children and communicating with them about difficult issues.
- Adopters in Lancashire County Council are now able to access various training in the form of workshops as well as more specific support through SCAYT+. Feedback in relation to the training and support offered to adoptive parents has been very positive.
- The adoption panel central list has a good mix of experiences, both professional as well as direct experience of adoption (as adopters and adoptees).
- Adopters are supported by their social worker throughout the assessment, approval, matching and post placement. Social workers maintain regular contact and undertake visits to adopters, allowing them to seek advice and support where needed.

- As part of the assessment process adopters are asked to seek out resources within their locality which will support them as parents and provide positive opportunities for their adopted child/ren.
- Lancashire County Council has developed with the appointment of a concurrent planning social worker, processes and procedures supporting concurrent planning for children. This involves close working relationships between adoption and fostering and children's integrated services teams, identifying the right applicants as concurrent carers and the right children that would enhance placement stability. To date there has been very positive feedback from the service and the carers.
- Adopters are given the opportunity to provide feedback after their attendance at panel.
  - Currently only 5.5% have completed a feedback sheet. Of those, adopters are saying they are happy with the panel process. Only 1 specific comment was received stating that 'the room was a bit big and it was difficult to hear the questions from the chair person'.

The panel room set up has been looked at to ensure everyone's needs are met.

#### **How do you involve adopters in matching and linking subsequent planning?**

- Social workers consult with adopters in relation to how they wish to proceed with matching to ensure that it meets their needs. For example some adopters choose not to attend Exchange Days due to the emotional impact; others feel able to consider the profiles of more than one child.
- After being approved as adopters, a follow up visit is made to reflect again on their preference.
- Adopters are provided with up to date photographs of children and in the majority of cases a DVD to assist them in the matching process.
- Adopters are offered the opportunity to meet with the Agency Medical Advisor to discuss any health issues the child may have as part of the matching process.
- In the majority of cases relating to older children, a Child Appreciation Meeting takes place prior to Matching Panel allowing the opportunity for adopters to meet all those who have played a significant role in the child's life.
- Following the match being agreed, adopters attend a Placement Planning Meeting to plan their introductions to the child. The planning takes account of the needs of adopters while ensuring that the needs of the child remain paramount. Care is taken where there are existing children within the adopters' household to ensure that as far as possible all needs are met by the plan. Adopters are given the opportunity to offer feedback in relation to their experience of Matching Panel. A minimum of one review takes place during the period of introductions to allow adopters the opportunity to offer their views in relation to the planning and for changes to be made as appropriate. Looked After Child Reviews take place within 20 working days of the child moving in to their adoptive placement. This allows adopters to offer their views to an independent person in relation to the matching and introductions process.
- Lancashire County Council is currently planning their first activity day. This is a new format for linking adopters to children, focussing on children who are generally more difficult to match. This will be in conjunction with other local authorities and voluntary agencies, to enhance the success of the day. The idea is that adopters meet a variety of children, other than just having written or visual profiles of children, with the hope that an emotional connection might lead to a successful match. Pilot studies elsewhere undertaken had a better success rate than traditional family finding

activities normally used in the UK.

- Prospective adopters in the assessment stage are invited to exchange events in house so they have a real understanding of actual children waiting for placements. More recently there has been an increase in adopters showing an interest in a child see for the first time at one of these events and subsequently later linked to them.

### **How do you involve adopters in the development of your agency?**

- There are a number of adopter and adoptees on the central list of the adoption panel.
- Through adoption support groups adopters are encouraged to identify areas for service development. Through newsletters adopters are encouraged to contact identified workers within the team if they are interested in developing particular areas of the service, such as the buddy system.
- Experienced adopters are invited to act as buddies supporting newly approved/matched adopters.
- When closing the case of adopters, at whatever stage of the process, a letter is sent to them offering the opportunity for them to offer feedback in relation to the service they have received from Lancashire County Council.
- Adopters are encouraged to offer feedback in relation to their experience of Adoption Panel in order to develop and improve the experience for future prospective adopters.
- Approved adopters are asked to attend the preparation training of prospective adopters. This gives prospective adopters a realistic account of the experience of being assessed by Lancashire County Council and of becoming adoptive parents.

### **What do adopters say about your agency?**

- Adopters have provided positive feedback at every stage during the assessment process. This occurs at after information event, after interview, after training, mid way through assessment, after panel and after closure. Some comments received are as follows:
- Initial Interview
  - The information was clear and comprehensive;
  - Venue was not particularly warming, but in a good location. Adopters were greeted at front entrance on time, which was appreciated;
  - Staff created a nice relaxed atmosphere.
- Mid Assessment
  - No issues with the process other than the length of time it took, particularly as they were already foster carers
  - Cost of medicals – too expensive
  - At this stage feel it is natural to have some anxieties or concerns. Hope that as their confidence grows these will be alleviated.
  - Appointments made at their convenience
  - Level of homework was just right
  - Felt comfortable and at ease with the process

- Post Adoption Order

- Overall positive experience, although maybe took a bit longer than anticipated.
- Felt frequency of visits suited their needs, but knew that if they needed assistance they were able to contact their social worker.
- Process was made easier due to the fact that they got on well with the foster carers and that the child responded well to them when they met him.
- At the time they felt that introductions were quite long and tiring, although with hindsight felt it was probably right.
- Following approval they were allocated a different social worker and felt that the first 3 profiles presented to them were not right for them and felt that this could have been due to the fact that the social worker did not know them as well, although, this is not a criticism against the social worker.
- Before bridging the timescale was incredibly long.
- The assessment process was felt too long.
- Would benefit from completing data electronically.
- Felt resources would be used more efficiently (however no suggestion provided as to how).
- Well informed throughout the whole process – from assessment through to matching, although not as efficient pre-assessment.
- Training provided a valuable insight into the adoption and assessment process and enabled them to make the right decisions and were subsequently matched to their perfect child.
- The decision was made in their own time, they did not feel rushed.
- The weekly post adoption playgroup is a great support to them and helps to share experiences with other adopters.
- Regular contact from both their social worker and child's social worker.
- Bridging felt a little long, with a lot of travelling, which could have been minimised.
- Strong links made with the foster family and hope to stay in touch.
- Initial meeting focused very much on negative issues and worst case scenarios, this could have been more balanced.
- Admin could have been more organised – their medical forms had been misplaced.
- Waiting a number of months following the initial meeting and a further number of months once their application had been submitted. They rang numerous times and were eventually told 'don't call us, we'll call you!'.
- Child's passport was missing for months. Also delayed being able to complete the court application as they did not have the child's birth certificate.

**How do you involve staff in the development of your agency?**

- Team meetings take place on a monthly basis for half a day. Staff are encouraged to set the agenda and discuss any developments within the agency. Guest speakers are also invited to attend from other agencies, which can offer knowledge and information which results in improved practice within the team.
- A Service Development Day took place in October 2013. Feedback was provided about the general trends within the local authority and directorate, but also more specific from every team within the adoption service.
  - Uncertainty re restructure and the effect on service, teams and service delivery affecting morale – regular progress meetings needed
  - Opportunity to catch up with what is happening in other parts of the service and what issues are impacting on them
  - Fostering to adopt requires clarification
  - Benchmark needed re assessments, if objective of central care proceedings (CCP) Team is met with implementation of Public law outline (PLO) – is this effect of PLO or CCP Team?
  - Would like to celebrate successes and achievements to boost morale
  - Clarity needed re objectives
- Team managers within the service have a lead role in developing policies and procedures relevant to their specific functions. Team managers and the service manager regularly attend BAAF briefings, workshops, conferences and meetings of the Adoption 22 consortium, more recently specifically focussing on recent legislative changes. This allows for maintaining up to date knowledge in relation to local and national adoption issues. Information is cascaded to adoption social workers in team meetings.
- Social workers within the team are encouraged to regularly attend training and to feed back learning in team meetings. Staff are then able to incorporate this into their practice and the future development of the service.
- Rolling out of the Solihull training through train the trainers.
- Involving adopters and panel members in the marketing campaign and related media, tailoring this to the strength and preference of those wanting to be part of this campaign.

#### **What plans for improvement and development are currently in place?**

- We have a rolling specialised recruitment campaign in order to increase the number of adoptive parents in Lancashire County Council. So far this has included advertisements on billboards, internet advertising and features in newspapers. Marketing is structured around the profiles of children awaiting adoption. A new marketing campaign has centred on including recruitment of Asian adopters to meet the needs of our non White British children as well as a campaign with a marketing firm.
- The adoption team is seeking to become involved in family finding for children at an earlier stage, as placing children for adoption swiftly promotes positive outcomes for them. This will be even more evident with the setting up of the new central care proceeding team. This team will take cases from children integrated services where children (at least one if part of a sibling group) fall into the age group 0-4 and having a early identified plan of adoption or a high likelihood of this., This will fast track the child's case in proceedings and develop the expertise of the social workers.
- Seeking to improve timeliness of adoption for our children. We are now placing more children than before in areas outside of the close vicinity to Lancashire. Timeliness of placing children will also increase with the expected increase in approved adopters for this year.

- Continue to develop and refine our adoption support services. Significant recent improvements have been made to the service in relation to processes, procedures and standardisation of tasks, as well as performance management. There are plans to continue with these improvements.
- Use of the funding from central government in such a way that it addresses shortcomings in the service. It is planned that another agency advisor is recruited, a case progression manager, a programme manager, two more assessing social workers, an additional family finder, an additional concurrent social worker and an Independent reviewing officer adoption lead.
- Continuation in improving the service meeting the regulatory timescales. Stringent tracking and processes in place, that are continuously being developed and refined, will maximise the opportunities.
- Further development of new processes to support the shorter timescales for the assessment of adopters.
- There have already been improvements to the council's website in relation to adoption; this is continuously being updated.
- Continuation of training the whole service in the Solihull approach.
- Further refining of gathering feedback and performance data.
- Launching of the first activity day.
- Addressing the challenges faced with staff shortages, number of approved adopters and number of children awaiting adoption, through specialised application of the funding received from central government.
- Refining procedures relating to panels and the processes underlining this, ensuring compliance with legislation and good practice.

### **Panel and ADM Consultation process activities**

#### **Panel membership:**

1 Independent Chair, 2 Medical Advisers, 1 Agency Adviser, 9 Social Work Members (3 of whom are non-LCC), 2 Independent members specialising in Education/Education Psychology and 9 Independent members that have wide ranging experiences of having adopted, having been adopted, having fostered or worked within children's services or the nursing profession, each adding their own valuable experiences to the panel process.

#### **Observers:**

Panel observers range from student social workers on placement within adoption and fostering teams, social workers from other teams i.e. child care, initial assessment.

#### **Panel administration:**

We have a dedicated team of central business support who is meeting the timescales for completing panel minutes, sets agendas, liaises with and supports the agency advisor, coordinates all submissions, collates feedback sheets, writes guidelines related to their work processes, produces data performances related to panel and the wider service.

#### **IRM**

There have been no cases referred to the Independent review mechanism panel during the period May 2013-October 2013.

#### **Achieved:**

- A guide on the role of buddy to support for newly appointed panel members.
- A joint panel development day between some members of the service and the panel members of the adoption and fostering services. This was well attended and focused on
  - Update on legislation that has come into effect since the last development day
  - New PAR
  - Fostering Regulation 24
  - Concurrent Placement Scheme Update & Foster to Adopt Briefing
  - Public Law Order (PLO) and Activity being undertaken to support delivery
- There has been another child permanence report training session this year. Some relevant feedback related to the venue and the amount of time given to discuss the topics, which will be taken into account with the next planning.
- Joint training with the judiciary, CAFCASS, the fostering service and the central care proceedings team offered on seven days to discuss the new Public Law Outline and how adoption and permanence planning falls within this. This was presented to child care social workers, independent reviewing officers, fostering and adoption social workers.
- Briefings to child care social work teams on new case law where adoption must be clearly evidenced as the only adoption suited to the child, the significance of including all relevant medical information and the qualifications needed to be an author of the Child Permanence Reports.
- Panel member appraisals highlighted the following pertinent comments:
  - Panel considered to be very positive and rewarding;
  - Positive feedback re Panel Business Support, Independent Chair and Panel Adviser;
  - Some concerns expressed re possible difficulties in respect of the forthcoming shift to electronic panel papers and the reading of papers;
  - Positive comments re panel papers going electronic;
  - Length of time it takes to read panel papers for longer panels;
  - Length of time allocated to each item;
  - Suggestion to look at the necessity of all the documentation that is presented to panel;
  - Table set up remains daunting to panel members;
  - Positive that any questions come through the chair;
  - Expression of interest to adoption training;
  - Ensure panel members who alternate receive approved minutes;
  - Positive comments regarding the panel minutes being non-judgmental and the focus being on the child;
  - Good working relationship between panel members;
  - Supportive environment for challenging views;
  - Learning environment;
  - More information in respect of disruptions and learning from this;
  - Good balance of experience within the panel

Feedback from appraisals is always looked at carefully to see where further development/change can take place.

**Panel Member Feedback in respect of items presented to panels over the last 6 months:**



### **Comments re APR:**

- Several comments stating that APRs are missing views of potential adopters;
- Several comments that APR on the brief side - not much detail in respect of the adopters;
- APR should have included something regarding names;
- APR reflects views of birth child;
- APR easy to read and gives balanced picture of child's presentation;
- Poor report - some content not appropriate for APR i.e. re older sibling;
- Adopters have set out their views in the APR in organised and reflective manner; This has been helpful in clarifying the match;
- Repetition in APR re background;
- Very good APR;
- Very good/excellent APR which addressed issues very well;
- A number of reports provided little or no evidence of why a child should be matched with particular adopters;
- Info re adopters limited;
- Well written analysis of matching criteria;
- Applicant didn't appear to know what was written in their section of APR;
- Would have liked more specific examples of how adopters will meet child's needs;
- Would have been helpful to get adopter's views re each child, not just collectively;
- Adopters leave needed clarification;
- Adopters contribution to report really good;
- Very good contribution from the adopters, including why adopters felt they were a good match, rather than having generic statements;

### **Comments re CPR:**

- CPR's missing important information e.g in relation to siblings, no information in respect of birth father, despite comment that birth father had been visited; medical information which hasn't been updated etc.
- CPR disjointed in parts with misuse of words, which doesn't read well. Number of comments noted that CPRs have not been amended;
- Too much cut & paste from CPR which was not updated;
- SW presentation very good;
- A number of reports were said to provide contradictory information e.g. the child was abused, however, the child had been removed at birth; A child was reported to having more than one foster carer, which was incorrect.
- No ref by SW of views of mother's MH background or health of father;
- Analysis required in response to birth children's views.

### **Comments re PAR:**

- Pages missing from the back of the PAR;
- New PAR a little confusing in layout & content, but information provided was very good;
- Text on Family tree too small;
- Also information difficult to follow in respect of the children belonging to prospective male adopter. Acknowledged this may be due to the new form rather than the fault of the social worker;

- Difficult to comment on approval of a couple who have already adopted;
- Adopter's contribution is well presented;
- Well written from both social worker & adopter;
- More information needed in respect of why they wanted to adopt a 3rd child;

### **General Comments:**

- A number of reports need to go into more detail/not concise enough/information not clear enough
  - Information that should be provided early on is not always provided until well into the report
  - If using cut and paste to produce reports, the information needs to be checked afterwards to ensure information is correct and relevant.
  - A lot of comments in respect of spelling and grammatical errors and that reports would benefit from proof reading/quality assurance.
  - Some incorrect factual information.
  - Several comments in respect of incorrect child's name used within report.
  - Clear and concise report
  - Good report although lengthy in places.
  - Fantastic knowledgeable presentation;
  - Social worker made up for poor report with the presentation.
  - Social worker had good knowledge of the adopters
  - Good presentation.
  - Would have benefited from quality assurance prior to submission.
  - Names used in reports and not always made clear who they are;
  - Clear & concise knowledge of case from both social workers. Clearly covered all areas.
  - Clearly detailed, well signposted report.
  - Complex well described case;
  - Very detailed report. Provides clear, factual information.
- Monthly briefings to the panel, which has covered:
    - Aims of Adoption Preparation Course
    - Briefing note for DCSs: key messages from a judgment handed down by the Court of Appeal (civil division) on 17 September 2013.
    - Temporary approval of prospective adopters as foster carers:
    - Difference between Residence Order and a Special Guardianship Order
    - Briefing to adoption panel members June 2013
  - Briefing to Adoption Service
    - Advice for social workers regarding completing adoption BAAF health forms and medical advice
    - Prospective Adopter Report (PAR)-Advice for social worker
    - Advice for General Practitioners for completing AH forms for prospective adopters
  - A regular newsletter covering all the latest changes and happenings in the panel

process and adoption service.

- Electronic processing of adoption medicals to the medical advisor, as far as possible.
- Reports are quality assured before they are presented at panel or considered CPR's. A consultation session is available on a monthly basis for social workers to gain specific feedback/guidance in the writing of these reports.
- There is a thorough, rigorous, consistent and fair approach across the service in the assessment of the suitability of prospective adopters.
- There is continuous dialogue with minute takers, the chair and the panel members, ensuring panel minutes are of a high quality.
- Link provided to panel members to access e-learning training.
- Most panel member appraisals now concluded.
- Panel member files now being audited after many corrections undertaken, with the majority of outstanding items amended. Files are now also being scanned to be available electronically in its entirety.
- Minutes are now being agreed before the decision maker makes a decision, which is compliant with National Minimum Standards.
- There is a thorough, consistent, rigorous and fair approach in the assessment and approval of the suitability of prospective adopters.
- Reports are quality assured before being presented to panel. The reports are often of a high quality with feedback being provided regarding shortcomings/amendments/suggestions.
- Panel members receive paperwork in the majority of cases at least 5 days before panel day.
- Streamlining of the feedback of panel reports by three panel members at any given panel.

**Still in progress and/or needing to be developed.**

- A second agency decision maker for the role specific to the ADM Consultation meetings.
- A flowchart indicating the timeframe from panel to the decision being communicated to the adopters.
- Adoption forum.
- Developing profiles of all panel members that will be available to applicants/adopters attending panel, to determine if there is a conflict of interest from their side before they enter the panel discussion.
- Closer working relationships between fostering and adoption, with specific reference to concurrent planning and fostering to adopt.
- Electronic system re panel process.
- The change of care plan from adoption training was cancelled due to reduced interest. The next training course is scheduled for early 2014.
- Feedback has been collated on the quality of the reports being presented to panel as well as the verbal presentation. This is still in the process of being fed back to the social workers.

**Strengths and weaknesses:**

- Robust, stable and balanced panel memberships.
- Same chair and advisor to cover the fostering and adoption panels to allow for continuity and stability.
- Successful concurrent scheme.

- High level of support and training offered to applicants and approved adopters from various sources.
- Rigorous assessment of adopters.
- High level of experience within the workforce offering skills and stability in the assessment, linking and support of adopters and children.
- Stable and experienced management evident throughout the service.
- Dedicated training and assessment.
- Processes being put in place to achieve targets set and address the high level of children awaiting adoption placements.
- Continuation in addressing the streamlining and gaps in processes and procedures to result in more effective working and meeting the needs of the children and adopters in line with legislation.
- Dedicated and committed adopters enhancing the opportunities and experiences of the children they care for.
- Careful matching ensuring children's needs are being met to a high standard.
- Challenges being set by changes in legislation, but these are being met by dedication and continuous improvements, including a wide variety of training, briefings, development days and discussions.
- Capacity difficulties across the service have led to higher levels of challenges being placed on staff, but this has been dealt with proactively and with more recent support of appropriate use of the Adoption Reform Grant. Posts are currently being advertised for a variety of positions that will support high case loads and allow for more effective tracking of the child's journey hence minimising delay. Assessments have also been allocated to an independent agency and a pool of social workers has now been recruited that do independent assessments. This will allow for an increase in 15 additional assessments being completed and at present we have placed more children in adoptive placements than at this point in 2012.
- Concurrency is successful within Lancashire and another social worker in this role will further develop this placement type. Work is being undertaken to enhance the use and effectiveness of fostering for adoptions.
- Enhanced level of marketing and publicity. This now also includes material related to a non White-British child.
- Continued stable placements with no disruptions in the last six months.
- Flexibility in panels to accommodate the increased level of panel business.

**Specific issues:**

-

**Chair's comments on panel membership, working relationships and overall function (highlight any gaps in membership experience) as well as recommendations regarding the operation of panel and the provision of adoption services**

No comments received.

**Service manager's comments on panel membership, working relationships and overall function (highlight any gaps in membership experience) as well as**

## **recommendations regarding the operation of panel and the provision of adoption services**

I should like to acknowledge and thank everyone involved in Lancashire's Adoption Panel. The Panel has an extremely important role to provide independent scrutiny of the proposals presented and to determine whether all the issues have been appropriately clarified and whether the proposal is sound. We are fortunate to have strong and committed membership of the central list of panel members who are well informed about their role and responsibilities, adhere to standards of good practice and who are keen to participate in the training opportunities afforded to them.

Good administrative arrangements are in place which support the effective functioning of the Panel and the Agency Advisor ensures that panel members are kept well informed in relation to the Adoption Reform programme and associated changes to legislation, guidance and practice by producing regular briefings.

In order to further strengthen membership of the Adoption Panel the Service is seeking to recruit additional social work representatives to join the central list over the forthcoming weeks.

**Author: Heidi Fliegau**

**Designation: Agency advisor, fostering and adoption services**

**Date: 10 December 2013**



# Agenda Item 9

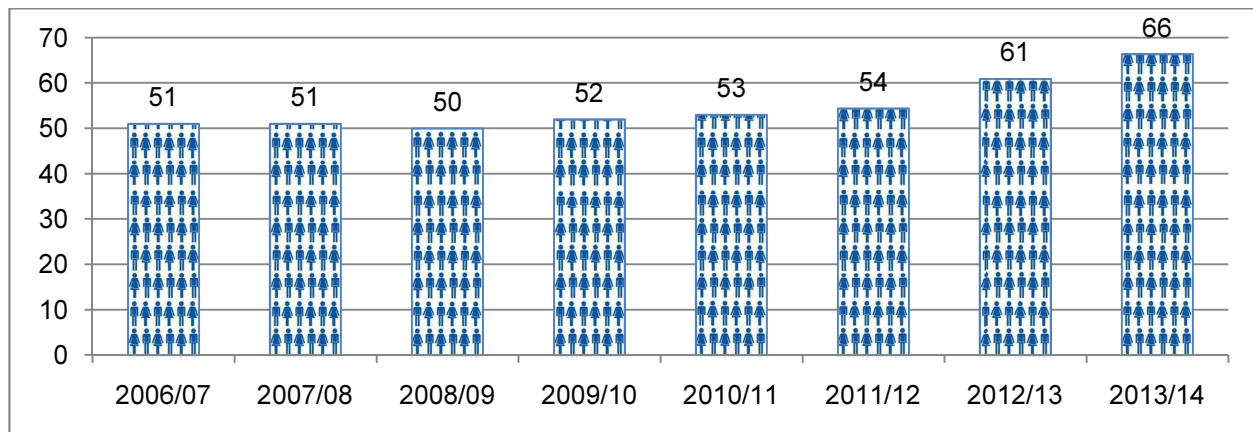
## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, APRIL 2014

Lancashire changed its integrated children's system from ISSIS to LCS in February 2014; this severely impacted on the ability to report accurate performance, as such all information given below should be considered as provisional and subject to change.

### ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of March 2014, there are **1,612** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **66** 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.
- There are **more** children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 60 out of 10,000 are currently looked after.
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (79 out of 10,000) and slightly less than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (67 out of 10,000).



#### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after continues to increase, and has now risen above the England average.
- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after is lower than that of Lancashire's statistical neighbours and lower than the average of other North West local authorities.

#### SERVICE ACTIVITY

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

- The contact centre has received more 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 are becoming looked after as a result.



	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Feb 14
Contacts <i>per month</i>	--	998	1284	1525	693
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1470	1389	1175	1370	1677
Initial Assessments	8636	10071	9891	11288	11865
Core Assessments	2932	4246	5019	5901	5724

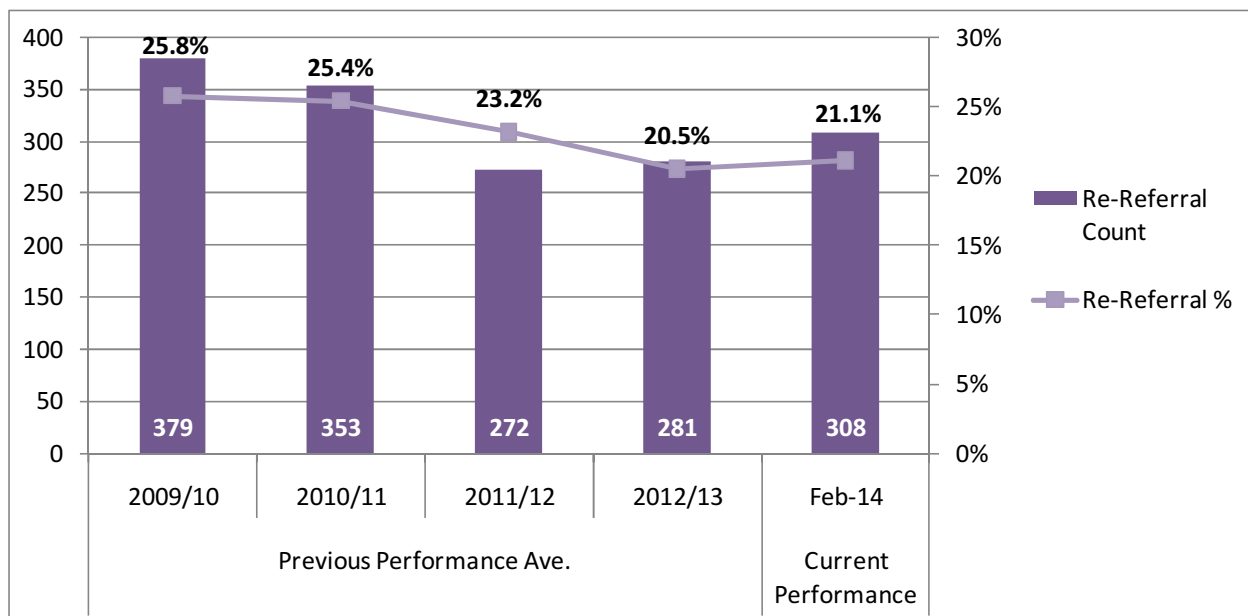
**COMMENTS:**

- ❖ 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. As a result, contacts have reduced significantly.
- ❖ Due to multi-agency approach of MASH, the average referrals per month is currently 1677 which is significantly higher than the amount received in previous years and increasing demand on Social Workers.

**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 have historically declined which was considered good performance
- However, these have increased recently and were reported at 21.1% in February 2014
- Average re-referral for 13/14 to date has increased slightly to 23 re-referrals out of each 100 referrals received





## 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 **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%	7.8%	9.5%	😊
↘	↘	↘	✓	

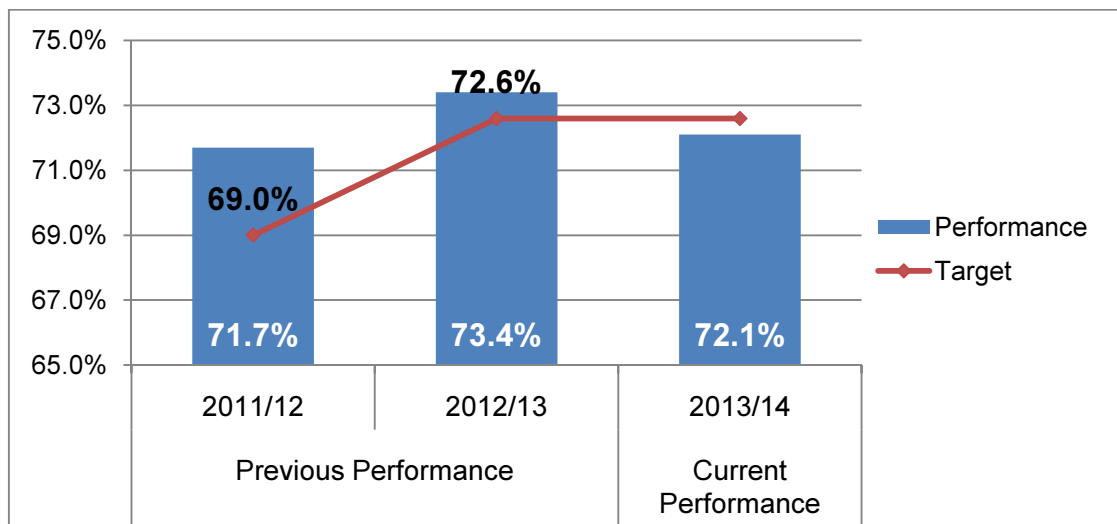
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 been in their current placement for at least 2 years:

- Out of 100 children looked after, Lancashire targets to have more than 72 children looked after settled for a long time in their current placement.
- February 2014 information shows that **72** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance is an improvement on performance from 2 years ago, but slightly lower than last year's performance.



## COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes.
- ❖ This has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after.

## CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE

Lancashire County Council works with multiple agencies including Lancashire Police, to monitor the levels of children missing from care. A recent workgroup has come together to improve the information about these children and young people, and this year's information is below:

	2013/14 Q1	2013/14 Q2	2012/13 Q3	2012/13 Q4
Lancashire CLA missing	88	119	92	56
Number CLA from other LAs missing	103	89	80	83
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	173	141	53	41
Other Children Missing	258	255	345	480
<b>Children Missing with Lancashire boundaries</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>660</b>

## COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, around 6 out of 100 children looked after go missing during a quarter, although this was much improved in the most recent quarter.
- ❖ The numbers represent the number of children looked after, and some children have multiple instances of going missing, an average of 1½ missing episodes per child.

## 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 for 2012/13 has been published and performance remains at 12.9% as it was in 2011/12 which was higher than the previous year.
- CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people of whom 6 out of 10 achieve 5 GCSEs at A\*-C

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Lancs	11.9%	12.9%	12.9%	18.0%	😊
	↘	↗	↗	×	
England	13.6%	15.0%	15.3%	Higher	😞

**COMMENT:**

- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after remained stable in 2012/13, but remains below performance of 18.6% from 2009/10.
- ❖ Across England, just over 15 per 100 children looked after achieved 5 A\*-C, slightly more than Lancashire's 13 per 100.
- ❖ Attainment by children looked after remains somewhat behind their peers with 6 out of 10 children and young people achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A\* to C inc. English and Maths.

**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:



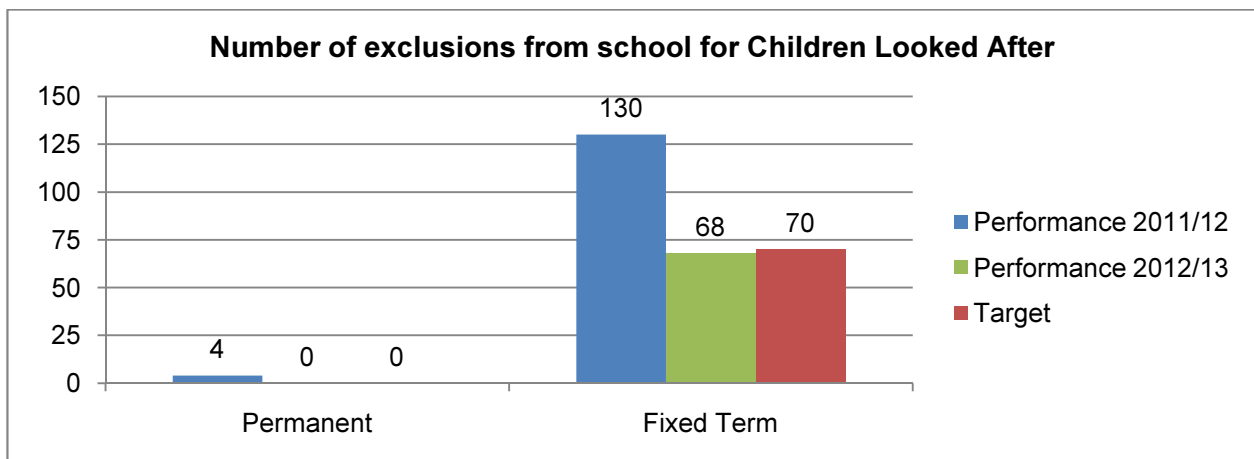
- Attendance in primary school was slightly below target with all children looked after only missing 5 out of every 100 sessions in school
- Attendance in secondary school was slightly worse than last year, with all children looked after missing 8 out of every 100 sessions in school

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Primary	96.3%	96.2%	95.0%	96.0%	☹️
	↗️	↘️	↘️	✖️	
Secondary	92.5%	94.3%	92.0%	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 no permanent exclusions of children looked after
- In the last year there were 68 fixed term exclusions of children looked after
- These numbers are both within the targets set by corporate parenting board and a significant improvement on the previous year



### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Exclusions have dropped significantly in this academic year compared to a high level in the previous year.

### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN YOUNG OFFENDER INSTITUTIONS OR SECURE UNITS

- There are a small number of children looked after placed in young offender institutions or secure units, 6 as at February 2014.
- 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 WITH AN UP-TO-DATE HEALTH AND DENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- 66 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (February 2014)
- This is a lower level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year
- 84 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (February 2014)
- 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.
- ❖ This has been nationally acclaimed for its successes in raising awareness and improving oral health.



### ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

#### ADOPTION ORDERS

- **196** children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased to 75 children looked after being adopted in 2012/13, higher than in previous years.
- Provisional figures show that **81** children looked after were adopted in 2013/14, an improvement on the previous year



#### 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:

- 17 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 2013/14, a big improvement on previous years
- 10 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under residence order during 2013/14, a slight decrease on performance last year

### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Overall more children looked after than ever are being provided with a permanent home under adoption, special guardianship order or residence orders; almost 43 out of 100 children looked after in the last year (2013/14) 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":



- In the first nine months of 2013/14, out of 100 care leavers, **84** are considered to be 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 recent years. 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:



- As at the end of Quarter 3 of 2013/14, **48** out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- This is lower performance than in 2012/13 when 55 out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment in 2012/13.
- Nationally 85 out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (Sep 2013)

### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance was good in 2010/11, but declined sharply in 2011/12, possibly due to the poor economic climate at the time.
- ❖ Performance improved slightly in 2012/13, but was some way below the expected level, and also is below targeted performance.
- ❖ Current performance for 2013/14 suggests that just under half of those leaving care since April 2013 were in education, training or employment, some way behind the target of 67 out of 100.

## CARE LEAVERS AT UNIVERSITY

- In 2011/12 there were 25 care leavers at university
- In 2012/13 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 22 first year students. There were 7 graduates in 2012/13.
- In 2013/14 there are 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students.
- Of the previous year's 22 first year students; 15 progressed to the second year, 1 completed with a one year foundation degree, 2 returned to repeat the first year, and 4 left their course.
- There are currently 8 students in their final year, hoping to graduate in 2013/14.



## COMMENTS:

- ❖ There is a good level of Care Leavers at University in each of the last two years showing that Leaving Care support is there for potential students.
- ❖ However there it is concerning that 2 in 10 first year students dropped out of university, and a further 1 in 10 repeated their first year. The decision to study at University must be an appropriate choice for the applicant and suitable students need to be well supported.

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		<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 1\app 1.pdf</a>	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		<a href="#">Louise Taylor 19/05/2010</a>	<a href="#">CC Winder 19/05/2010</a>		<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 2\app 2.pdf</a>	18/06/10	30/06/10	£500.00	Document No: 9030639
3	Closed	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		<a href="#">Reply Received Louise Taylor 16/07/2010</a>		<a href="#">Author informed deferred 11/08/2010</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 3</a>				
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		<a href="#">Grant Not Supported by Louise Taylor 16/07/2010</a>		<a href="#">Not supported - Author informed 20/07/2010</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 4\10 07 07 Application form holiday.docx</a>				
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		<a href="#">Louise Taylor 10/08/10</a>	<a href="#">CC Winder 11/08/2010</a>	<a href="#">14/09/2010 - Notification of approved application to Peter Francis</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 5\Entitlements Leaflets - Grant</a>				
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		<a href="#">Reply from Louise Taylor 31/08/2010</a>			<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 6\Haverholt.pdf</a>				
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		<a href="#">Comments from Louise Taylor 12/10/2010</a>	CC Winder/CC Wilson 20/10/2010	<a href="#">21/10/2010 Notification of approval sent to Stasia Osiowy, Barbara Bath and Gill Green</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 7\Grant Application.doc</a>				
8	Closed	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	<a href="#">30/12/11 Follow Up Sent to Mark Warren</a>	<a href="#">Sent to Louise Taylor 07/01/2011</a>	<a href="#">Sent to CC Winder 07/01/2011</a>		<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 8\Grant Funding Application.docx</a>				

**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		<a href="#">02/03/2011 Approved by Louise Taylor</a>	<a href="#">04/03/2011 CC Val Wilson Approval</a>	<a href="#">10/03/2011 Notification of approval sent to Alexander Borchert</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 9\application 9.pdf</a>				
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		<a href="#">Approval Received from Louise Taylor 25/03/2011</a>	06/04/2011 CC Wilson	<a href="#">06/05/2011 Approval Email Sent to Hannah Peake</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 10\application 10.pdf</a>				
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		<a href="#">06/04/2011 Approval Louise Taylor</a>	<a href="#">06/04/2011 CC Wilson</a>	<a href="#">07/04/2011 Approval Email sent to Hannah</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 11\application 11.pdf</a>				
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		<a href="#">18/05/2011 Approval Louise Taylor</a>	<a href="#">18/05/2011 CC Winder Approval</a>	<a href="#">19/05/2011 Approval Email sent to Paul Hegarty</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 12\Application Form.doc</a>				
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	<a href="#">Confirmation of YP Approval 13/02/2012</a>	23/02/2012 Approval Louise Taylor	23/02/2012 Approval CC Winder	<a href="#">24/02/2012 Approval Email sent to Laura Goodfellow and CC Kay</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 13\Grant application Celebration Event.doc</a>				
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	<a href="#">22/11/2011 CC Winder Approval</a>	<a href="#">25/11/11 Approval Email sent to Paul Hegarty</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 14\Application Form.doc</a>				
15	Not approved	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	<a href="#">Young People Approval 19/12/2011</a>	<a href="#">Sent to Louise Taylor 30/12/2011</a>	<a href="#">Sent to CC Winder 20/12/2011</a>		<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 15\Grant application 15.doc</a>				



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	<a href="#">17/10/2012 Comments from YP</a>	19/10/2012 Louise Taylor Approved	08/11/2012 CC Winder Approved	<a href="#">121108 Approval Sent Gwen Monk</a>	<a href="#">Applications\A pplication 16\Application Form.doc</a>				

## 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"> <li>• Nominees – 233 young people were nominated for an award                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominees – 177 were invited to the events</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nominees - 64 attended the events to receive their awards                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carers – 61</li> <li>• Lancashire County Council Staff and Councillors – 34</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In total 160 staff, carers, county councillors, managers, Children and Young People Looked After and Care Leavers attended the event.</li> <li>• Unfortunately 56 Young people were nominated but not invited to the event due to lack of space in the venue</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• The campaign exceeded its key target with a final total of 1,113 fostering enquiries achieved within the 2011/12 financial year.</li> <li>• A 23% increase in unique visitors to the website which led to an average of 74.5 online enquiries each month.</li> <li>• Telephone enquiries increased from an average of 35 up to 68 calls per month by the last campaign quarter.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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><a href="#">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.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Newspaper report from the event.</a></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 has been created.	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, PR1 3NA	Children's Rights Summit	Laura Goodfellow, Youth Mentor, Children's Rights Service	£1,425.00	£712.50	

20	Sam Gorton, LCC, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ	Celebration Event 2014	Sam Gorton	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	
21	Golden Raven Productions, 29 South Avenue, Morecambe, LA4 5RJ	To fund two films, workshops, refreshments, a budget for filming, cast, crew, marketing, production of DVDs and unveiling of the piece at various venues.	Anthony Moorcroft, Unit Manager	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	
22	Speak Out Lancashire Care Leavers' Group, The Children's Society in Lancashire, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, PR1 3NA	To provide a group for care leavers to have a say and make changes. We meet every two weeks at The Children's Society in Lancashire. We meet to discuss issues for care leavers and want to make changes and help improve the support care leavers get. We have been working closely with Children's Social Care and have been working on changes to the Pathway Plan and a survey for Care Leavers. We meet separately to the CiCC because we wanted a group	Laura Goodfellow, Participation Worker	£7,980.72	£7,980.72	

23	Speak Out Lancashire Care Leavers' Group, The Children's Society in Lancashire, 30 Ribblesdale Place, Preston, PR1 3NA	To distribute care leavers' survey in Lancashire	Laura Goodfellow, Participation Worker	£700.00	£700.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£62,272.07</b>	



## 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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Department  
for Education

# **IN HOUSE**

**Special Edition on amendments to the  
Children's Homes Regulations from  
January 2014**

**January 2014**

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## Editorial

Welcome to this special edition of 'In House', in which we outline the changes resulting from the coming into effect of The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013.

In summer 2013 we launched a formal consultation on changes to regulations to improve collaboration between children's homes and services in their local communities. Our aim was to put more effective safeguards in place for children relying on residential care, recognising, in particular, the vulnerability of children placed at a distance from their homes

Our proposals for change took forward the recommendations in the report of the Expert Group on Children's Homes Quality, which included conclusions from the Out of Area Placement Task and Finish Group, published on 23 April 2013.

These groups were established in July 2012 following reports from the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) and the Joint All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Inquiry on, respectively, child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups and children who go missing from care. These reports highlighted particular concerns about the care of children who were placed, often at short notice, in children's homes a long way from the authorities responsible for their care, children who could be "out of sight, out of mind". These are often young people with the most challenging needs who are more likely to go missing from placement and be targeted for exploitation.

The consultation exercise resulted in 254 formal responses from a very wide range of services involved with safeguarding and portioning the welfare of looked after children. We took these responses into account in finalising these Regulations. Government's response to the consultations are available at: [Care Planning Regulations Consultation Results](#) and [Children's Homes Regulations Consultation Results](#)

Six months on from the consultation, we have brought in revisions to the children's homes regulations to stimulate collaboration, partnership working and help build an understanding of the homes local area and the services within in. The amended regulations are available to view at [here](#). A table guide to the major changes is given from page 12 along with questions and answers.

*Almudena Lara*

**Head Children in Care Portfolio**

# Regulations that are changing from 27th January

## Regulation 8: Qualifications and training

Registered Managers appointed after 1 April 2014 must achieve or hold the Level 5 qualification within three years of the date they started employment. A Manager already in post who does not yet have the qualification must achieve it by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at the latest..

Children's residential care workers appointed after 1 April 2014 must achieve or hold the Level 3 qualification within two years of the date they started employment. A care worker already in post before 1<sup>st</sup> April must achieve the qualification, at the latest, by 1 April 2016.

Q. What if I am ill, or away from work on Maternity leave?

A. The registered provider may extend a time limit if the manager or care worker has not worked in that capacity for a prolonged period.

### *Points to note*

This changes result in regulations now holding information relating to the appointment of managers along with the National Minimum Standards (NMS). It is now a regulatory requirement that the manager must have:

- Achieved the qualification as described above.
- Worked for two years in a position relevant to children's residential care in the last five years.

- Worked for at least one year in a role that has involved supervising or managing care staff.

Revised NMS relating to these regulations will indicate that it is good practice for a manager to achieve the level 5 qualification in 3 years. Managers in role before 1st April 2014 who have been engaged in a qualification, but have not yet completed it, should aim to complete within three years of the date of starting their qualification.

## Regulation 12B: Notifications

The registered person must notify, in writing, the local authority where their children's home is located when children are admitted or leave the home.

Q. How do I find out who in the local authority should be notified?

A. Contact the local authority's children's department and ask for the contact details to send the notification to. If you experience difficulties in finding the right person, ask for the officer who receives notifications of out of authority placements from local authorities.

Q. Do I have to do this for children placed by the local authority in which my home is located?

A. No. Only for children who come from other authorities.

### *Points to note*

The written notification must include;

The child's name and date of birth.

Whether the child is placed under section 20 or 21 or subject to a care or supervision order under section 31.

Contact details for the team manager of the placing authority and the child's IRO.

Whether the child has a statement of special educational needs, and if so, details of the local authority that maintains the statement.

## **Regulation 16: Missing children**

Homes must have in place a "missing child policy" setting out the steps that the home will take to prevent children from being absent without permission and details of staff roles and responsibilities for responding when children are or have been missing. Before implementing or amending the policy homes must consult and take into account the views of appropriate local services and individuals, and have regard to relevant local authority or police protocols on missing children.

The registered person may call for a placing authority to review a child's care plan where the child has been persistently absent from the home, or if they consider them to be at risk of harm.

We have made amendments to the Care Planning, Placement and Care Review Regulations 2010 to place a duty on local authorities to react to these requests.

Most police forces will have a missing persons coordinator, or someone performing that role, who may be

prepared to advise homes on their "missing child policy"

Q. Has the requirement to have a policy that prevents children going missing been removed?

A. Regulations are not prescriptive about the detail of the "missing child policy" Homes should develop a policy that is appropriate to the needs of the children in their care.

Q. What should the registered person do if the local authority do not convene a review after they have asked for one?

A. The registered person could escalate the matter to the LAC service manager or the child's IRO. If the issue remains unresolved they might ultimately have to raise this with the Director of Children's Services (DCS). At the point that the home escalates the concern to the DCS they may decide to copy to Ofsted. Ofsted would expect that the home had pursued the concern through all avenues available in the local authority.

## **Regulation 31: Fitness of premises (Location review)**

The registered person shall make sure that the premises are appropriately and suitably located, so that the children are effectively safeguarded and are able to access all the services to meet the needs of the child (as identified in the child's care or placement plan).

The registered person needs to review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the home at least once a year. The review process should involve



consulting and taking into account the views of appropriate local bodies or services. These are likely to include local agencies responsible for children's safeguarding –namely children's services for the authority where the home is located and the police.

We will be publishing further guidance to support a consistent national approach to location reviews later this year.

Q: By "location review" do you mean a risk assessment?

A. The review will most certainly identify any risks or concerns about keeping children safe that are associated with the area where the home is located, and would involve the registered person in developing a strategy for minimising these risks.

## Regulations coming into force on 1 April 2014

### Visits by an independent person (Reg. 33 visits)

The registered provider must appoint an independent person to visit and report on the children's home in accordance with regulation 33 as revised. That person cannot be:

For private /voluntary providers:

- employed by the organisation running the home, unless s/he is contracted to provide a service which is to critically examine and scrutinise the way the children's home is managed and the quality of care that the children's home provides for the children living there.

For local authority providers: employed in connection with the carrying on of social services functions relating to children.

- A person involved in preparing the care plan of a child placed in the children's home to be visited.
- A person involved in managing or supervising the person who prepares the care plan of a child placed in the children's home to be visited.
- A person with a financial interest in the children's home.
- The responsible individual if nominated.
- A person who has, or who has had a connection with:
  - The registered person;

- A person working at the children's home; or
- A child accommodated at the children's home; or
- Which might give rise to doubts about the person's impartiality in producing the independent person's report.

Q. Currently one of my area managers carries out the Regulation 33 visits of the homes they manage. Is this still possible?

A. No. The manager in this case would have a connection with the manager working at the home and is employed by the organisation managing the home, so would not be sufficiently independent. As an employee of the organisation they could only be included as a regulation 33 visitor if their contract was confined to scrutinising and quality assuring the home's operations.

Q. Can local councillors carry out these visits to LA homes?

A. Yes

Q. Can IROs carry out independent visits to LA homes?

A. An IRO employed by a local authority but managed outside of the children's social services department could be sufficiently independent, as they will be managed outside of the authority's directorate that carries on social services functions relating to children. However an IRO could not carry out a visit of an LA home where

one of the children on their caseload is placed.

#### *Points to note*

The registered provider has an increased role in being aware of and acting on any conflicts of interest in relation to the Independent visitor. ((amended) Reg. 33 (4) (5) (6)).

Visits to the home shall take place once a month and may be unannounced. The independent person must interview (with consent and in private) children, parents, relatives and those working in the home to form an opinion as to whether;

- Children are effectively safeguarded; and
- the conduct of the home promotes the wellbeing of children.

They shall also inspect the premises and any records they require. Where these include children's case records the child and their responsible authority should confirm their consent.

The independent persons report of the visit should be sent to:

- HMCI (Ofsted);
- the authorities responsible for each child in the home (usually to the child's social worker or to the relevant team manager);
- the registered provider (and if applicable the registered manager);
- the responsible individual (if nominated);

- the local authority where the home is located (if requested by that local authority).

## **Regulation 4: Statement of purpose**

The homes statement of purpose should be published on the homes website if they have one, as long as publication in this way does not prejudice the welfare of children cared for in the home.

## **Schedule 1**

We consulted on revising requirements for homes statement of purpose (to, in future, require, that the statements of purpose are more specific and detailed, concerning, in particular, the home's approach to safeguarding children; arrangements for their education; and arrangements for addressing children's health needs.

Matters to be included in the statement of purpose, have been revised, with new elements added.

The requirements are now structured into the following headings:

- Caring for children
- Children's behaviour
- Contact details
- Education
- Health
- Staffing matters

Significant revisions to this schedule include:

- The statement of purpose should aim to be more specific on the outcomes for children the home seeks to achieve and its approach to achieving these.
- The statement of purpose must describe the homes policy and approach in relation to anti-discriminatory practice and children's rights.
- The statement of purpose should include a more detailed description of the homes approach to behavioural support.
- The statement of purpose should provide information on the home's approach to responding to children's health needs, including details on the qualifications and supervision of health staff engaged by the home, along with information about how the home measures the effectiveness of its approach to meeting the health/therapeutic needs of children in its care.
- The statement of purpose must include details of staff experience and qualifications, including information about any staff commissioned to provide education or health services; along with information about how staff members are supervised. (The registered person remains responsible for keeping the statement of purpose up to date (Reg 5 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended))

## Schedule 5

This Schedule has been amended to remove 'involvement of a child in prostitution' to replace this with a reference to 'sexual exploitation'.

## Schedule 6

We consulted on amending Schedule 6 to ensure that a home's registered person is more explicitly accountable for outcomes achieved by the children who rely on the home's care. This would include responsibility for monitoring the home's safeguarding arrangements; patterns of placement (referrals and disruptions); staff turnover and the home's relationship with the authority for the area where it is located.

The revised schedule emphasises the importance of home's working in close collaboration with local services, including local children's services, placing authorities and that the responsible individual must have explicit arrangements in place for consulting children about the quality of home's care and for acting on their views.

The requirements in the revised Schedule are now structured under the following headings:

- Caring for children
- Education
- Encouraging positive behaviour
- Health
- Health and Safety

- Missing Children
- Staffing Matters
- Working with local services

Amongst the issues that the responsible individual must monitor are:

- the effectiveness of the home's safeguarding arrangements;
- how the home listens to children and acts on their views; and
- how the home supports children to develop positive behaviour, including children's involvement with youth justice services.

Schedule 6 monitoring reports should be sent to Ofsted at least once every three months.

Information about this issue will be taken into account by Ofsted as part of the registration process.

We will be publishing further guidance to support a consistent national approach to location reviews later this year.

## **Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010:**

### **Schedule 1**

#### **13(b) A description of the area in which the premises are located**

This schedule has been amended to require, from April 2014, that applicants who wish to register to carry on a new children's home, must describe the steps they have taken to ensure that the home is appropriately and suitably located. (Refer to Reg. 31 of the Children's Homes Regulations above).

This process will involve consulting and taking into account the views of appropriate local bodies or services

## Explaining the changes to the regulations

The table below offers a 'quick reference guide' to the changed Children's Homes Regulations

Column 1 provides the numbering of the regulation and subsection of the original 2001 children's homes regulations. Column 2 provides the paragraph and subsection of the related regulation as amended in the 2013 Regulations. Column 3 describes the change that has been introduced with columns 4 and 5 indicating the date that this change comes into effect.

All changes are described in more detail in the body of this newsletter.

Figure 1: Table of changes to the Children's Homes Regulations 2001

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
4 (2A)	4	Where a children's home has a website, the registered person must publish the statement of purpose on that website, unless they consider publication would prejudice the welfare of the children in the home.		X
11 (1) (a)	6	New wording to read:  1) The registered person shall ensure that the children's home is conducted so as to.  (a) Promote and make proper provision for the <i>safeguarding and</i> welfare of children accommodated there.  (b) Make proper provision for the care, education, supervision, <i>support</i> and, where appropriate treatment, of children accommodated there.	X	
*New 12 B to be inserted	7	This new regulation requires that children's homes must notify the local	X	

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		authority where the home is located of the admission or discharge of a child in their care.		
2	3	<p>Wording to be inserted in Regulation 2 of the 2001 Regulations defining what is meant by a 'missing child policy'.</p> <p>"missing child policy" means a written policy setting out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the steps taken in relation to the children's home to prevent children accommodated there from being absent without permission; and</li> <li>(b) the procedures to be followed, and the roles and responsibilities of persons working at the children's home, in relation to a child who is, or has been, so absent</li> </ul>	X	
16 *new (5) and (6)	8	<p>The amended Regulations insert two new subsections (5) and (6) into Regulation 16.</p> <p>Subsection (5) requires that in implementing or changing the home's 'missing child policy' the registered person must consult and take into account the views of appropriate local bodies and have regard to any local authority or police protocols on missing children.</p> <p>Subsection (6) outlines the circumstances under which the registered person shall ask the LA</p>	X	

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		<p>responsible for the child to review the child's care plan.</p> <p>Note: Regulation 20 of these Regulations amends Regulation 33 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 to place a corresponding duty on the responsible authority to carry out a review when it is notified (e.g. from the registered person) that a child is at risk of harm.</p>		
31	10	<p><b>Fitness of premises</b></p> <p>This Regulation insert an amended subsection (1A) into Regulation 31 requiring the registered person to take into account the area where the home is located</p> <p>(1A) The registered person shall:</p> <p>(a) ensure that premises used for the purposes of a children's home are appropriately and suitably located, so that children cared for by the children's home are effectively safeguarded and are able to access services to meet needs identified in their care plans or placement plans; and</p> <p>(b) for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a), review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of those premises at least once in each calendar year.</p> <p>Subsection (1B) states that when</p>		X



Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		conducting a review for the purposes of paragraph (1A)(b), the registered person shall consult, and take into account the views of such local bodies or persons as the registered person considers appropriate.		
2	3	<p>Wording to be inserted in Regulation 2 of the 2001 Regulations to define information on the required qualifications for both staff and managers.</p> <p>"required care role qualification" means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce in the children's social care pathway ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or</li> <li>(b) a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma;"</li> </ul> <p>"required manager's qualification" means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services in the children and young people's residential management pathway ("the Level 5 Diploma"); or</li> <li>(b) a qualification which the registered provider considers to be equivalent to the Level 5 Diploma;"</li> </ul>		X
26	9	<b>Fitness of workers</b>		X

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		<p>Regulation 9 of the 2013 Regulations inserts a new subsection 4 into Regulation 26 of the 2001 Regulations about the timing over which the required qualification (see above) must be achieved.</p> <p>Subsection (4) Where a person works in the children's home in a care role, that person must attain or hold the required care role qualification by—</p> <p>(a) the date which falls two years after the date on which that person started work in that position, in the case of a person who starts working in a care role in the children's home after 1st April 2014; or</p> <p>(b) 1 April 2016, in the case of a person working in a care role in the children's home on 1st April 2014.</p> <p>(4A) The registered person may extend a time limit in paragraph (4) where the person working in the care role does not work in that capacity for a prolonged period.</p>		
8 (2)	5	<p><b>Fitness of manager</b></p> <p>Regulation 5 of the amended Regulations inserts a new subsection 3 into Regulation 8 of the 2001 Regulations concerning 'Fitness of Manager'.</p> <p>“(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph</p>		X

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		<p>(2)(b)(i), a person does not have the qualifications, skills and experience necessary to manage the children's home unless he has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) subject to paragraph (4), attained the required manager's qualification;</li> <li>(b) within the last 5 years, worked for at least 2 years in a position relevant to the residential care of children; and</li> <li>(c) worked for at least one year in a role requiring the supervision and management of staff working in a care role.</li> </ul> <p>(4) Where a person manages a children's home, that person must attain or hold the required manager's qualification by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the date which falls three years after the date on which that person started managing the children's home, in the case of a person who starts managing the children's home after 1st April 2014; or</li> <li>(b) 1st April 2017, in the case of a person managing the children's home on 1st April 2014.</li> </ul> <p>(5) The registered provider may extend a time limit in paragraph (4) if the person managing the children's home does not work in that capacity for a prolonged</p>		

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
		period.		
33	11	<p><b>Visits by Registered Provider</b> (Reg. 33 visits).</p> <p>The revised regulations set out new criteria for defining the independence required by a person appointed by the registered provider to visit and report on a children's.</p> <p>They also specify the information that must be included in reports by the 'independent person' and set out the persons who must always receive these monthly reports.</p>		X
Schedule 1	13	<p>In future every home's Statement of Purpose must be more specific and detailed.</p> <p>The requirements for inclusion in the statement of purpose are now structured under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring for children</li> <li>• Children's behaviour</li> <li>• Contact details</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Staffing matters</li> </ul>		X
Schedule 5	Schedule 5	Schedule 5 has been amended to replace references to "involvement of a child...in prostitution" with a reference to sexual exploitation.	X	

Original Children's Homes Regulations 2001	Children's home and LAC (Misc. amends) regulations 2013	Description of change	In force- 27 Jan	In force- 1 April
Schedule 6	16	<p>Matters to be monitored by the registered person have been revised to ensure the registered person is more explicitly accountable for outcomes achieved by the children who rely on the home's care. This would include responsibility for monitoring the home's safeguarding arrangements; patterns of placement (referrals and disruptions); staff turnover and the home's relationship with the authority for the area where it is located.</p> <p>The matters to be monitored are now structured under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring for children</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Encouraging positive behaviour</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Health and Safety</li> <li>• Missing Children</li> <li>• Staffing Matters</li> <li>• Working with local services</li> </ul>		X

**Figure 2: Table of Changes to the Care Standards 2000(Registration) (England) Regulations 2010**

<p>Care Standards Act 2000  (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010: Schedule 1. 13 (b)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>The 2013 Regulations amend the 'Registration Regulations'</p> <p>This schedule has been amended to require applicants who wish to register to carry on a new children's home, to provide HMCI with a description of the steps they have taken to ensure that the home is appropriately and suitably located. (Refer to Reg. 31 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001, as amended by Regulation 10 of the 2013 Regulations above).</p>		<p>X</p>
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Department  
for Education

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