

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 24th July, 2014 at 1.00 pm in Assembly Hall - County Hall Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Lorraine Beavers	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Chris Henig	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Niki Penney	- Lancashire County Council (for CC Snape)
Catherine Louise Taylor	- representing Adoption - Interim Executive Director for CYP (for Bob Stott)
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Corey	- LINX Representative
Gage	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Paige	- LINX Representative
Robinn	- LINX Representative
Georgina	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative
Kat	- LINX Representative
Mark (Chair)	- LINX Representative
Katie	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Caroline Beswick	- Children's Society in Lancashire
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos
Louise Burton	- CCG (for Debbie Ross)

Other Attendees

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson	- Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, LCC
Colette Lawler	- CCG
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	- Barnardos
Cathy Trengove	- Barnardos
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardos
Gareth Oates	- Barnardos
Paul Wilcox	- Barnardos
Rebecca Wilkinson	- Barnardos
Tom Green	- Office of the Children's Commissioner
Annette McNeil	- Integrated Health Service
Carole Hart-Fletcher	- Kids OK Online

1. Introductions and Icebreaker

Mark welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were noted from County Councillor Kim Snape, Jane Simpson, Kathy Ashworth, Debbie Ross, Bob Stott, Kate Baggaley and Joanna Hunt.

Georgina led the Board on an icebreaker where attendees had to have a conversation with each other and then decide what hat suited them the best.

2. Marc Bentley Presentation

Marc Bentley gave some background on the Princess Diana Award for Champion Volunteers and informed the Board that he had nominated LINX for this prestigious award which had taken him six days to prepare and involved obtaining quotes from various sources. He had recently received notification that they had been successful for the award and invited Louise Taylor and Paul Wilcox to present the certificates to LINX. County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson was then invited to present the trophy to LINX.

3. What LINX Have Been Up To - High and Low Points Activity

Kat guided the Board through the next activity where they were asked to position on mountains, what they thought were good (high points) and not so important (low points) that LINX have been involved in over the last 12 months.

Feedback was given, and one of the most important pieces of work that had been carried out was the Pupil Premium and heightening the awareness of it in schools and with children looked after.

4. Kris Holmes Children's Rights Activity

Kris Holme's presented a leaflet to the Board that will be used to raise awareness of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which is "(Respect for the views of the child): When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account".

The leaflet is attached to these minutes.

5. Tom Green from Office of the Children's Commissioner

Mark introduced Tom to the Board who began by saying he felt privileged to be asked to attend the meeting and also that he himself had been had been a recipient of the Diana Award for Volunteering 12 years ago to the day and encouraged the young people to continue their good work and get involved with the opportunities the Diana Award gives.

Tom spoke about the work he is involved in with Dr Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England and her team and also with Amplify whom some of the young people from LINX are involved with.

The Board were asked to think about what challenges they would like to lay down before the Local Authority and Government and what things could be done better? Tom ensured that he would take all the comments back and present them on behalf of the young people of Lancashire and feedback with progress.

Topics to be raised were:

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) need to promote ourselves better and ensure children and young people can find out about us

- The OCC need to better explain who we are and what we do
- The recruitment of foster carers need to involve children and young people
- Government should do something to address foster care just being seen as a job
- Children and young people in care should all have fair treatment when they turn 18
- Thinking should be done about the impact on children of legal changes (housing benefit, legal aid etc.)
- Local authorities are being asked to do more with less money and the budget only goes so far.

6. KOKO Demonstration

Barnardos and the young people gave a demonstration on the KOKO website, which enabled them to talk to each other and receive information in a secure and appropriate way.

7. Pupil Premium

A copy of the letter attached was presented to the Board and this will now be circulated to children looked after to raise the awareness.

8. Celebration

Following on from the receipt of the Diana Award the young people from LINX were presented with a cake to celebrate their achievement.

9. Evaluation

The meeting was brought to a close with the "tops and pants" evaluation. Feedback is attached.

10. Close

Mark thanked everyone for their attendance.



Quote from a young person:

People think we are less mature than we actually are, we can make decisions for ourselves.



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Listening to children and young people

Believe in children



Barnardo's
North West

Lancashire
County Council





About us

Lancashire Participation Services is a service that is commissioned by Lancashire County Council and currently consists of the following groups:

- Lancashire's Children in Care Council
- Named LINX
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Council named POWAR

Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child): When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account



Children and Young Peoples Views

The most important issue that comes across from children and young people is the fact that they want to be involved in the decision making process.

Have Professionals working with children and young people to communicate with them effectively.

Make sure that you feedback to young people if the decision that they have made cannot go ahead.

Actions are better than words. When working with children and young people you need to be able take action as well as listening to them.

This will make them feel included. An example of this could be:

A young person who is in care is having a placement move that they don't want. You need to be able to tell the young person the reasons why they have to move.

Useful Tips

- Listen to young people
- Act upon actions that have been agreed
- Communicate with young people effectively.
- Be there for the young person and treat them as a person and not a number on a piece of paper.

Minute Item 7



Lancashire Participation Service
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Dear young person or carer,

We are LINX – Lancashire’s Children in Care Council. We meet up regularly to talk about things that affect children in care and one of the things we have talked about a lot lately is the pupil premium. This is important to us and we want all looked after children and young people in Lancashire to know about it.

The pupil premium is funding given to schools to help with the education of all children looked after by Lancashire County Council. This money is given out to schools by the Virtual School Head teacher, in Lancashire this is Sue Parr and Sue can give this funding to your school to help with your education. This money can be spent on lots of different things such as laptops, learning aids, educational trips, books and extra tuition.

We have written this letter as we have found that many LINX members didn’t know pupil premium existed and we think it is really important to inform all looked after children and young people in Lancashire that this resource is available. Our LINX members say:

‘I want other people to know about it because I didn’t get any of it and it would have been helpful, I might have got better grades’. Kat, 17

‘This letter is really important, don’t be shy to prompt people in meetings and ask about how much you have left, don’t hint, you need to fully ask about it’.
Georgina, 15

We also wanted to let you know that every school has a designated teacher for looked after children. This is the teacher who is there to support all looked after children in the school. If you don’t know who yours is, ask at school and find out.

We are always looking for new members to join LINX; we have primary and secondary aged groups for looked after children and care leavers. If you want to come along or want more information contact one of our workers on 01772 629470.



Additional Information

Educational Attainment of Young People Achieving A* - C including Maths and English

	Previous Performance		Current Performance
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
CLA Lancs	11.9%	12.9%	12.9%
All CYP Lancs	60.1%	59.9%	61.2%
CLA England	13.6%	15.0%	15.3%
All CYP England	59%	59.4%	59.2%

Recommendations from LINX to schools:

- Schools to show a spending breakdown of pupil premium on their website
- LINX to be able to view examples of receipts or invoices where pupil premium money has been spent
- Schools to show how they let young people know how they can access resources
- Evidence of extra lessons that young people have attended or educational trips
- A letter to young people letting them know they are entitled to pupil premium
- Evidence that young people have been informed about their pupil premium and given options and limitations on how to spend it
- Evidence of how young people are informed about who to speak to regarding their pupil premium

Young person Led Corporate Parenting Board **Tops & Pants feedback**

Tops:

- Young people leading the surprise award
- Making loom bands
- The interaction
- Because it was fun
- Creative ice breaker
- The children and young people and listening to their achievements
- Seeing the work the young people have achieved throughout the year
- Opportunity to talk to the young people and listen to their views and ideas
- Very interactive
- Seeing the presentation
- Tom Green's presentation
- Participation & involvement
- Everyone listening and talking
- Celebrating achievements
- Young people leading
- Cake
- The hill activity
- Evaluation activity
- Highs and lows mountain
- Princess Diana award
- Article 12
- Lots of ideas and information sharing
- Getting young peoples opinions heard
- The chairman
- KOKO – children need this type of fun protected activity
- Finding out the young people had got the Diana award
- Young people getting involved

Pants:

- Some young people weren't involved enough in the agenda
- Should have been more and better hats

- Didn't like today because of another YP taking my loom bands
- To hot
- The heat
- Sound system needed
- To much talking
- Would off been better with a microphone
- Boring hats – more options but idea was fantastic
- I didn't know that there was food, looked in email for the information
- Watching people talk
- Better to have more young people using KOKO
- Have a laptop on each table
- Noisy venue
- Pupil premium is only online. No wonder many LINX members didn't know, 25% of children are not online. These are the homes that have a greater need
- Sound- could not always hear – microphone next year
- Nothing