

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 30th July, 2015 at 1.30 pm in
Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, 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 Sue Prynn (Chair)	- Lancashire County Council
Councillor Bernard Dawson	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Mark Twiname	- Fostering Forum
Callum	- LINX Representative
Natalie	- LINX Representative
Chloe	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Gina	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Mary-Beth	- LINX Representative
Billie-Jo	- LINX Representative
Marc	- LINX Representative
Charlotte	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	- Barnardos
Laura Conrad	- Barnardos
Gareth Oates	- Barnardos
Rebecca Wilkinson	- Barnardos
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardos
Cathy Trengove	- Barnardos
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children

Other Attendees

Jane Hylton	- Children's Social Care
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Legal and Democratic Services
Rebecca McGeown	- East Lancashire CCG

1. Ice Breaker

The Chairpersons, Sam and Bradley were introduced to the Board and led it through the ice breaker. Groups were asked to discuss what they had done since the last Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) meeting and feedback the top three most interesting to the rest of the Board.

2. What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX then presented as attached what they had been involved with since the last CPB meeting.

A special mention was given to Mark who has had lots of exciting news – he has won National Barnardos Award for Young Volunteer of the Year, invited by Edward Timpson MP to attend the House of Commons on 20 July to take part in Education Orals after impressing the Children's Minister at the All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting for Looked After Children and Care Leavers that they both attended at Portcullis House in March this year where Mark spoke about LINX and his involvement with the Young Inspectors.

Finally Mark has been invited to attend a Labour Party candidacy test for the next general elections in April. The Board offered their huge congratulations to Mark on these achievements.

3. Education

An activity around Pupil Premium and examples on what it can be spent on was given. The Board was then invited to discuss other ideas that it could be used for.

Groups' feedback on ways to improve educational outcomes for CLA and links between Children Looked After, designated teacher, education consultant and virtual head.

Education consultants –

- More 1:1 support
- Stability, keeping pupils in the same school
- Consultants working together with the young people and others to find out what their needs are
- Force schools to explain what they have spent the pupil premium on

Designated Teacher –

- Support for foster carers, family and guardians

Virtual Head –

- Every child/young person tracked and supported consistently
- Quality PEP, swift response to PEPSA requests
- Involve carers more, ensure they are aware of entitlements
- Update CLA website regularly with entitlements data
- Make sure school knows their responsibilities

Bob Stott, Director for Children's Services informed the Board that he had recently attended a Management Team meeting where they had discussed the predicted results for Children Looked After Year 11 young people with regard to their GCSE outcomes. It is hoped that around 20% of CLA will achieve 5A*-C results. Management Team have now requested that they see the predicted levels of all CLA young people of secondary school age from Years 7-11 across the County. Once this information is available it will be shared with the CPB.

4. Health

Callum led this exercise and performed the rap he wrote about his carer.

The Board were then asked to write a rap on the importance of Staying Healthy and the ones that were performed are attached.

5. Leaving Care

The Board took part in a leaving care activity on accommodation which they had to decide whether they felt the statements given were appropriate/inappropriate/unsure and give their reasoning for the options they chose. Here are just a few of the examples given:

- 1 bedroom flat in perfect condition in a rural area, 5 miles from the nearest shop
- 3 bedroomed house with a garden in good condition
- Flat in excellent condition in an area where there are concerns of drug abuse

Following this, the Board were then asked what they thought the priorities were for accommodation that would make it suitable for care leavers. Comments received are attached.

6. What Makes a Good Foster Carer

The final activity led by LINX was around foster carers and what makes a good one and also what qualities/behaviours a young person would not expect from them. The Board were asked to list both spectrums and the results are attached.

These will help Barnardos design a training package for Barnardo's Foster Carers that they are hoping to deliver later in the year.

7. Evaluation

Gavin and Mary-Beth performed a song "Feel the Love" by Rudimental and John Newman to close the meeting and the Board were asked to complete an evaluation.

What LINX Have Been Doing.....

**We have attended our
monthly Children in
Care Council meetings
in Central, East and
North Lancashire**

**We have taken part in
focus groups to look
at access to
healthcare**

assessments for

Children Looked After

We'll tell you more about this later...



**We have attended
executive meetings
with Lancashire Youth
Council**

We have attended PULSE meetings Lancashire's young person's Health and Well-being Board

**We have had two primary
days**

**One was at Uclan when
15 children attended
the Science Festival
to test out phygital objects
and give their feedback**



One of our members won the national Young Volunteer Award for Barnardo's





He was also invited to attend the Education Orals at the Palace of Westminster





**On 23rd July he was
invited to Lancashire's
full council meeting to
be formally
congratulated for his
achievements**





**We have written our script
for the ITV FIXERS project
which will be a short
animated film aimed at
tackling social stereotypes
for Year 7 school
pupils**





On 8th July the State of the Nation: Report on Children in Care and Care Leavers was published

2 young people from Lancashire helped develop the survey and LINX all completed the online survey

**Two of our members have
attended a residential trip
with 'Amplify' the Young
Persons Advisory Group to
the Children's
Commissioner for England**



Two of our members were involved in interviewing social workers in East Lancashire



**A member of
LINX and VIP
guest Sally
Lindsay who met
at the PROUD
awards are
featured in
Celebrity Support
for Barnardo's
VIP magazine**



Making Barnardo's PROUD

Sally Lindsay met children, young people and foster carers at the PROUD Awards in Preston, which celebrates the achievements of all children in care in Lancashire. The children and care leavers had a lot of input into the planning of the event, which was organised by Barnardo's Include Me 2 Participation Service and Lancashire County Council.

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5 members attended a planning meeting in Oldham for a North West Children in Care Conference to be held in September



**We have been visited by
the Virtual Head Teacher to
start planning for the Year
10 and 11 Event at
Woodlands in October**



9 members attended a training event

Promoting the Health & Well-being of Children Looked After

1 member attended the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board Meeting to talk about LINX





The Children's Rights Alliance for England

'See it, Say it, Change it' Steering Group



On the 1st July 2 young people from Lancashire attended a meeting in London to present to the United Nations the findings from the steering group

**The following clip
summarizes the work of
the steering group:**

<http://www.crae.org.uk/get-involved/see-it,-say-it,-change-it/>

Some things Care Leavers said.....

They don't give
you enough
support to
leave care until
it's too late

After they've
signed me
off. I've fallen
straight flat
on my face

Many
people hit
rock bottom
after leaving
care

Some things Looked After Children said ...

[at school]

There's an
expectation that
if you live in
care then you
wouldn't be the
same as other
people

You know before you
go into care they
make you work it out
with parents.....Why
can't they do that
with foster care?

You start building bridges
with your social worker,
they just switch them.
They switched my
social worker
like there's no tomorrow

Some recommendations from the report include:

**There should be an entitlement for young people to remain
in residential care Until the age of 21**

**Local authorities should be stopped from placing
care leavers in bed and breakfast accommodation**

**All children in care and care leavers should have an
automatic right to an assessment of their mental
health needs**

**Access to useful advocacy services for
children in Care should be improved so that they are
available to every child who wants them**

**The
End**

Staying Healthy Rap Exercise

Rap 1

When your down and low and you have no flow and you just wanna go and you don't know where to go.
If it feels like hell and you just wanna yell but no-one to tell
Everythings inside and there's nowhere to hid
Silent shots finally heard, help at last, now it's all in the past.

Rap 2

Don't care if you're white, don't care if you're black
You be nice to me, I'll be nice back
Get down to the clinic, you know you want to be in it
Get a health check, you'll be better for sure
Health is good, healthy mood!

Rap 3

I'm sick and tired of all these pills and drugs
But I should know, they're for my own good
When I went to the Doctors they made me pick
A load of medication to stop me being sick
I was weak and down before this Doctor came around
I listened to him and now I'm sound.

I was weak n down before this Doctor came around
I listened to him and now I'm sound
If you don't want to be sad
Stop being bad
Go to see your GP
And you'll be happy!

Rap 4

Doesn't matter your wealth
Look after your health
Better to get checked than get pecked!
So we're here to tell
Do this and stay well!

What makes suitable accommodation for Care Leavers?

- Good security
- Affordable
- Have furniture
- Have gas and electric
- Have smoke alarms
- Be near a public phone
- Have good transport links
- Be near a doctors/dentist and shops
- Support to develop independent living skills
- Have internet access
- Good neighbours
- Have good street lighting
- Safe house
- Good area
- Activities to do
- Social networks
- Have own kitchen
- Working boiler
- Correct size
- Near local amenities – library, gym, hairdressers
- Be in a neighbourhood watch area
- Be close to a police station
- Clean water
- No damp
- No rodents
- Polite landlord
- Not next door to a building site or heavy traffic
- Wifi

What makes a good foster carer?

- know the child's rights
- have empathy
- have respect and understanding for the child's birth family
- be a good match to the child
- be loving
- have a sense of humour
- have patience and time
- be caring and kind
- be consistent
- listen
- multi agency working
- be non-judgemental
- be nurturing
- encourage activities with or without the carer
- give mental support and emotional wellbeing
- accept the young person for who they are
- give support for the siblings
- be resilient
- balance between own family and foster children
- be helpful
- show an interest in the CYP
- have enough space in the house
- encourage them to keep doing their hobbies, even after they move placements
- talking and communicating well with foster and own children
- be supportive and flexible
- try to see things from the YP's point of view
- be aware and pick up on behaviours
- be a shoulder to cry on
- be knowledgeable on attachment disorders and behaviour problems
- don't pressure the child to hug you, let them come to you
- spend time getting to know the YP and find out what support they need
- be forgiving

What makes a poor foster carer/experience?

- isolating a child
- treating the foster child different to own children
- being a foster carer just for the money
- having no trust
- when communication breaks down
- when the carer gives up on the child
- carer losing temper with child/physical abuse
- unsuitable housing/conditions
- foster carer buying separate food for the child and the rest of the family.
- making the foster child feel different
- being dismissive of their concerns
- labelling the YP
- making a big deal over little things

Feedback from postcards

The thing I most enjoyed was (why?)

- Is seeing Mum because I love her.
- I enjoyed the whole afternoon; this was my first meeting and will look forward to the next one. Everything was fab!!
- Good to see young people setting the agenda and chairing it!
- Activities – fun way to learn facts about children looked after – makes it more memorable. Very impressed 10/10 and the power point was very easy to understand.
- Seeing the young people using all of their tablets rapping and singing.
- All of the sessions but I especially had an interest in what young people thought about health and health assessments so we can see how we can make things better.
- Meeting other people and sharing ideas – raps.
- Health rap and raising awareness of accommodation.
- I like listening to what everyone wants to say.
- Fast turnaround of activities.
- All the different activities, young people's personalities and the skeleton activity.
- It was just fun, the young people were very confident which is good to see.
- The rap and the young people.
- The activities.
- Leaving care I have learnt that we need to look after our young people better.
- The atmosphere, light hearted but serious issues addressed. It was informative.
- The raps.
- Food, meeting people, the activities and the rap.
- Activities because it brought light into the meeting.
- Meeting young people and their views.
- Everything was great, well done to all was good fun.
- Good environment for everyone and a good range of activities.
- The rap.
- Relaxed atmosphere more informal.

The thing I least enjoyed was (why?)

- Didn't know there would be food – I had my dinner before I arrived!!
- Lack of time for the young people to fully express their views.
- The room was too warm.
- Filling in the bricks.
- Trying to come up with the rap.
- I enjoyed everything.
- The number of questions about care leaver's accommodation.
- Writing the poem – I am no good at it.
- Not long enough.
- No sugar free drinks – I'm diabetic.
- Not enough time for informal chat.
- Hot room.
- Lack of air con.
- Deciding on suitable accommodation – there was too many it should have been shorter.

