

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 10th September, 2015 at 6.00 pm
in Cabinet Room 'D' - The Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Pryn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Lynsey Evans	- representing Adoption - Fostering Forum
Tony Morrissey	- Deputy Director, Children's Services
Liam	- Care Leaver
Chloe	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative
Kat	- LINX Representative
Callum	- LINX Representative
Natalie	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers
Louise Burton	- CCG
Moya McKinney	- Children's Social Care (for Diane Booth)
Rebecca Wilkinson	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Councillor Michael Green	- South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Simon Hore	- Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Caroline Moon	- South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Ben Aitken	- Fylde Borough Council
Annette McNeil	- Integrated Health Services

Sandra Bilsborrow	- Wellbeing, Early Help and Prevention Services
Anne-Marie Morgan	- Employment and Support Team, LCC
Jane Hylton	- Children's Social Care
Caroline Bewsick	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Sarah Frankland	- Service 6, LCC

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting, especially CC Julie Gibson who is replacing CC Chris Henig on the Board and the District Councillors.

Apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Brindle, Lord, Beavers, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Mark Twiname, Debbie Duffell, Amanda Jakeman, Councillor Clare Cleary and Councillor John Harbour.

CC Prynne outlined that following the standing items on the agenda tonight's meeting was solely dedicated to care leavers and would look at the challenges and services available to provide care leavers with the best opportunities possible.

2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 18 June 2015 and 30 July 2015

The notes of the previous meetings were agreed as an accurate record.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

Regulation 22 Visits

CC Prynne had carried out a visit which had been reported and minuted at the 18 June 2015 meeting. This was a visit to a distant placement.

CC Brindle had visited Reedley Cottages on 9 September 2015 and the report stated that she was very pleased with the staff and facilities.

Adoption Activity Day

CC Prynne attended an adoption activity day on 11 July 2015 where she was impressed about how the days worked, which on paper were quite controversial but in practice was very different. The day was very relaxed and CC Prynne spoke to potential adoptive parents and saw them form connections with the children which they would not have had the opportunity to do if other mechanisms for adoption were used.

PROUD EVENT

The PROUD event would take place again, on 4 March 2016 at Preston North End Football Ground and thanked CC Ian Brown for being on the Task and Finish Group for this and stated that if anybody had any queries regarding PROUD to direct them to him.

Health Representatives

CC Prynne met with Health Representatives from the Board on 3 September 2015 who are undertaking work with Lancashire County Council (LCC) on new guidance on statutory assessments for Children Looked After (CLA). A self-assessment has been compiled jointly with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and LCC and will be reported against a RAG (red, amber, green) rating, which will be brought back to the Board. An issue has been previously raised around the importance of multi-agency working with Children's Social Care (CSC) and health prior to placing a child/young person.

Challenge Panel

The Challenge Panel will be held on 22 September 2015 at 6pm. Both chairs from the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), CPB and two young people from LINX (in a residential and a fostering placement) will form the panel. The panel will be scrutinising those that provide services for our CLA around safeguarding, children missing, quality assurance, child sexual exploitation and e-safety and other areas that young people wish to challenge on. The audience will be made up of Senior Managers from Residential and Fostering Services as well as Unit Managers and foster carers, and mirrored representation from the private providers. Colleagues from Commissioning and the Deputy Director for Children's Services will also be present.

Contract Monitoring

CC Prynne attended the quarterly review Contract Monitoring meeting for Barnardos.

Housing

Lastly, CC Prynne met with colleagues around Housing which will be a priority for the CPB over the coming 12 months.

CC Prynne then introduced the Borough Councillors in attendance with a portfolio for housing and homelessness to the next item led by LINX.

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

As this meeting was a thematic meeting around care leavers, LINX had focussed on this element of the performance report and fed back as per powerpoint attached.

Tony Morrissey and Moya McKinney responded to the issues raised

Action: Tony Morrissey agreed to feedback issues raised from this presentation to relevant officers.

CC Prynne challenged the District Councillors present around what they had in their districts in supporting care leavers around (ie any information leaflets in young person friendly language):

Housing Tenancy toolkits

Budgeting

Deposit scheme/bond scheme

Homelessness – is this a priority for care leavers in this situation?

It was felt that guidance from the District Councils needs to be available for care leavers, taking into consideration those with learning difficulties also and revisiting the housing policies in the districts and seeing how simplistic it is for young people leaving care and also for those preparing to leave care.

Action: District Councillors to find out what information is available and whether it is suitable for young people and feedback to CC Prynne (Chair of the CPB). Contact is susan.prynne@lancashire.gov.uk.

Caroline Beswick from Lancashire Children's Rights Society informed the Board of a new pilot project called "Care to be Different" which is to provide intensive support for 16-24 year olds and have a one stop shop for help and guidance through the issues that occur.

One issue that was raised by a care leaver was around the need for guarantors and the issue that this has been.

Action: Tony Morrissey/Moya McKinney to look into this further and report back to the Board on possible solutions.

CC Snape mentioned that there appeared to be different standards of housing for care leavers and wondered if there was a breakdown of housing by district. Moya reported that Children's Social Care would be aware of this as well as the Commissioning Team, however there are definite issues with resourcing provision before you even look at property.

Children's Social Care are working with Preston City Council around housing and how young people can help to renovate/decorate properties and then secure the place to live in.

Councillor Moon from South Ribble District Council is the portfolio holder for homelessness and is currently looking at how South Ribble works with care leavers around housing and housing support and looking at empty properties. She asked what the Leaving Care workers for LCC do to support young people

around this and really wants to engage with the Authority to move this issue forward.

There were reports that Service 6 were receiving up to 7-8 phone calls a week, where young people were stating they had been signed off from Leaving Care worker and were being evicted from properties and felt they had nowhere to turn to.

Jane Hylton stated that there was a fundamental problem and support workers have left the authority and not been replaced. However with the New Belongings project every 16 year old will have a Personal Advisor (PA). Further details will be given at item 5.

Moya McKinney has taken notes of issues raised by young people and will take that back to Diane Booth, Head of Children's Social Care. She also stated that if any young person wished to speak to her in private after the meeting, she would be around and if they wished to email her, her details are as follows:
moya.mckinney@lancashire.gov.uk.

LINX then shared the Care Leavers quiz with the group as attached with the answers.

5. New Belongings

Liam and Jane Hylton informed the Board on the new Belongings project that Lancashire County Council CSC had agreed to engage in order to improve their services to care leavers. They took the Board through their presentation as attached to the minutes.

This project is already underway in Trafford who received an outstanding judgement in respect to their care leavers services by Ofsted.

As every 16 year old leaving care will be entitled to a Personal Advisor, Jane is wanting to get young people involved from the Care Leavers forum to work on training the PAs up.

They will be linking in to the County PROUD event which was mentioned previously.

New Belongings is about improving the lives of Care Leavers.

90% of surveys carried out with Care Leavers stated that preparation and support is what they needed the most.

The project is in its' early days and will get better. There is a six month plan, however it is a long term project.

Evaluation from Service 6 covers a lot of the areas the project is looking at.

Action: Sarah Frankland agreed to share findings with Jane.

Issues around University and accommodation out of term-time was discussed and Moya stated that Children's Social Care will fund this, however, as much notice as possible is required if young people are struggling for accommodation out of term time and this will help to alleviate a young person's fears and anxiety around this.

Again this is an issue that Districts could support with and the importance of working together with the LCC was emphasised.

6. Future Horizons and Post 16 Destination

Anne-Marie Morgan spoke to the presentation attached to these minutes and gave some background into the scheme and what care leavers were entitled to.

Promotion around this scheme is high on the priority list and further work is needed. Discussion took place on different areas/services Anne-Marie could link in with to promote this and ensure that every care leaver was aware.

Action: Tony Morrissey agreed to speak to Anne-Marie to ensure that all care leavers were aware of what is being offered to them and the options available and who best to speak to about this and also ensure that all foster carers with a Lancashire care leaver was aware.

Links with the IROs was key with this information being spread to care leavers.

Action: Amanda Mansfield agreed to speak with Anne-Marie for further information for IROs to use.

It can also be promoted during the Care Leavers Week and put in the Care to Talk Fostering newsletter (link is Enda O'Regan, Fostering). Visiting fostering support groups would also be useful too. All foster carers either in-house or private should have access to this information if they are supporting a Lancashire young person.

CC Pryn suggested a fact sheet that could be put together by Anne-Marie that could be distributed by Social Workers/IROs when visiting care leavers.

Anne-Marie agreed to hold a Bite-Size Briefing for Elected Members across the Authority, not just those on CPB. (Contact is Catherine Earnshaw, Democratic Services).

Audrey Swann commented that she gave information in her training to Designated Teachers on this.

Action: Anne-Marie to look at all the suggestions given for promoting Future Horizons and ensuring that every care leaver in Lancashire, both in-house and private are aware of the scheme.

Sandra Bilsborrow spoke to the Board on the information that had been provided with the agenda on Post 16 Destination work that had been undertaken. It is the schools responsibility to provide guidance and the key is that there are lots of opportunities. Information on Wellbeing, Early Help and Prevention Service offer independent support and info on this can be found on the Talk Zone website, facebook, texting, webchat which can be found via the YPS link: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone>.

A follow up exercise is done in September once the young person has left education to ensure that they have all achieved what they intended to do and offer support and guidance is offered if not been able to secure a place.

A suggestion to put contact information on the Future Horizons newsletter would be useful.

7. Department of Work and Pensions

This item was deferred as Amanda had sent her apologies.

8. Any Other Business

Tony Morrissey reiterated that we have extraordinary and talented young people in Lancashire who undertake a significant amount of positive work as can be seen from tonight's presentation. It is a priority for the local authority that we provide services which enable our young people to meet their potential.

Following this meeting, it is hoped that work will continue with the District Councils on taking housing provision forward and that the Councillors will feedback to relevant colleagues what they have heard from the young people at this meeting and come back to a future meeting with ideas and ways to resolve the issues raised tonight by working closely with LINX and LCC.

Next Steps

CC Prynne outlined that it was important that we discussed the challenges and opportunities open to care leavers tonight and that we needed to ensure that there was a co-ordinated approach to delivering improved services. It was proposed that the New Belongings Project would be the lead to co-ordinate work streams ensuring that all relevant areas are progressed.

Action: Liam and Jane to report back on progress in 6 months.

9. Dates and Times of 2016 Meetings

The dates were agreed as attached. Please note, the June 2016 meeting is on the 16th not the 18th as per schedule.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 3 December 2015 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston.

Information Item

11. CPB Annual Report to Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

This item was not discussed at the meeting as it is for information only. Any issues arising from it, please forward to Sam Gorton, Clerk to the CPB who will forward to the relevant Elected Members/officers.

Minute Item 4

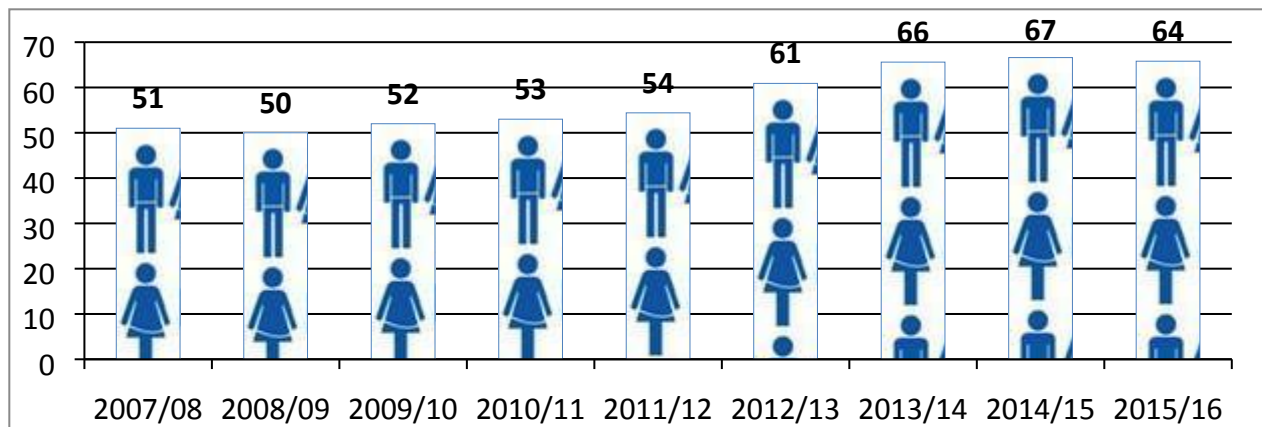
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2015

Lancashire changed its integrated children's system from ISSIS to LCS in February 2014; this has an on-going impact on the ability to report accurate performance, as such some information given below is subject to change.

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of June 2015, there are **1,558** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **64** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after is the lowest it has been for over 12 months.
- There are **more** children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 60 out of 10,000 are currently looked after and more than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (61 out of 10,000).
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (81 out of 10,000).



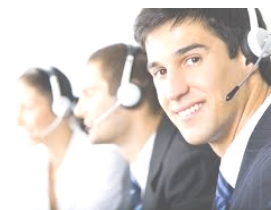
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after has decreased in June. There have been big increases in the number of looked after children over the last two years, however this is the lowest number for over 12 months. The rate increased slightly in 2014/15 to 67 per 10,000.
- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after is higher than that of Lancashire's statistical neighbours and the national average but lower than the average of other North West local authorities.
- ❖ Lancashire's statistical neighbours are Bury, Calderdale, Derbyshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Sefton, Staffordshire, Stockport & Stockton-on-Tees..

SERVICE ACTIVITY

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

- The contact centre has received **less** referrals than in previous years, although **more** contacts.
- A referral is information received regarding a child that is deemed to require social care involvement. A contact is any information received that doesn't lead to a referral.



- The social work teams have moved from initial and core assessments to a new single assessment from 1st April 2014.

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1284	1525	750	1575	1667
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1175	1370	1679	868	939
Initial Assessments	9891	11288	11865	-	
Core Assessments	5019	5901	5724	-	
Single Assessment <i>per month</i>	--	--	--	1088	1158

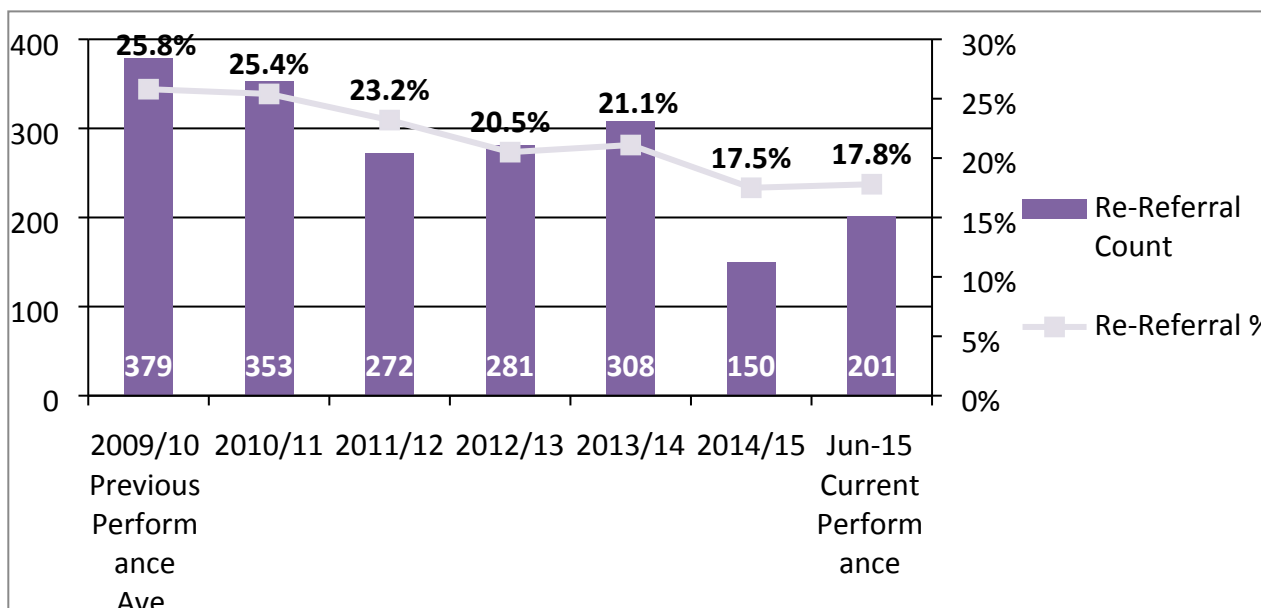
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first year shows an average of 1088 assessments started per month.
- ❖ A focus on early intervention could explain the rise in contacts but the reduction in referrals.

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
- Average re-referral rate for 2014/15 decreased to **less than 18** re-referrals out of each 100 referrals received.



COMMENTS:







- ❖ The re-referral rate has been calculated differently since LCS went live in 2014/15 hence the large decrease.
- ❖ The re-referrals rate for referrals that lead to a single assessment is **17.8%** in June 2015, in line with the 2014/15 average.
- ❖ Re-referral rates have stayed below **20%** for the over 12 months.

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 for June 2015 shows that just under **6** out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target.
- This is also a slight improvement on last year's performance of **6.8%** and a big improvement on 2013/14 when **9** out of 100 children looked after had to move twice or more during the year.

Previous Performance			Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		
8.7%	9.5%	6.8%	5.4%	9.5%	
					

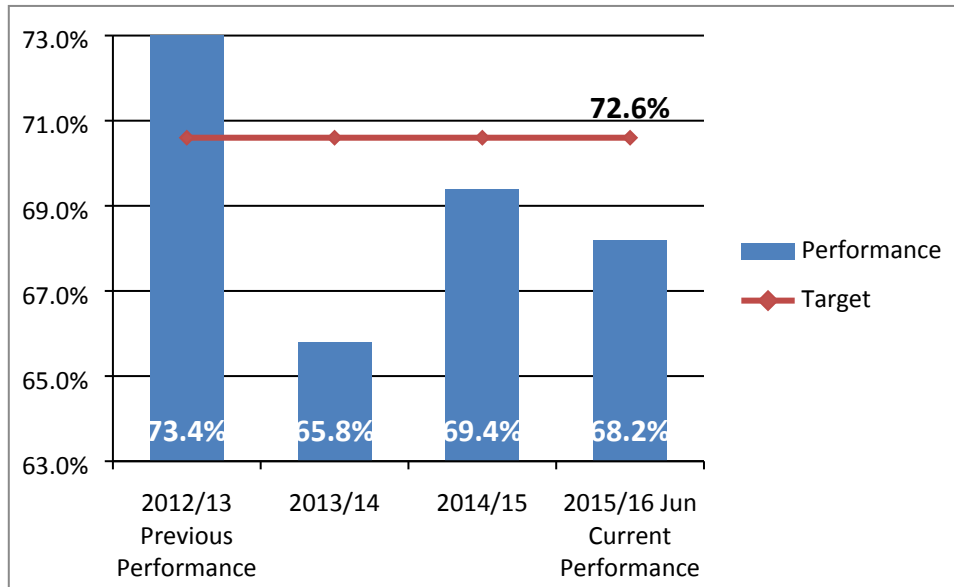
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good placement stability work through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability.
- ❖ Fewer children than ever have more than 2 placement moves.
- ❖ Young people are happy that this is less than last year however they would like to see more research and reasons into what causes placement moves.
- ❖ Young people are happy that the number has reduced but feel that placements could be better researched to suit the needs of the young person which may reduce moves.
- ❖ Young people are happy that the figure is low and that the target has been met, however they would like current performance to further improve.

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 at least two years in their current placement.
- June 2015 information shows that over **68** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance is above 2013/14 performance of **66** out of 100, but slightly below last year's performance (**69** out of 100).



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.
- ❖ 2014/15 performance improved from the previous year but remains below the target of **72.6%**. This has gradually improved throughout the year from **65.8%** in March 2014.
- ❖ Young people are happy that this figure has improved recently but wonder what more can be done to improve placement stability as the target has not been met.

CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE

Lancashire County Council and its partners are changing processes for children missing from care, and there will be a new protocol whereby young people are not reported missing straight away in case they are just running late. Also the Police will now be able to change missing to absent on the young person's record.

Lancashire County Council works with multiple agencies including Lancashire Police, to monitor the levels of children missing from care and this year's information is below:

	2013/14	2014/15
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764
Other Children Missing	1338	742
Children Missing with Lancashire boundaries	2456	2222

COMMENT:

- ❖ Over the whole year, **22** out of 100 children looked after were reported missing in 2014/15, the same figure as the previous year.

- ❖ The numbers represent the number of children looked after, and some children have multiple instances of going missing
- ❖ LINX have welcomed the changing protocols for children missing and feel this is good and that they are listened to, however are worried about those individuals that do actually go missing.

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?
	10/11	11/12	12/13	2013/14		
Lancs	11.9%	12.9%	12.9%	8%	18.0%	
England	11.6%	12.8%	15.7%	Not available	Higher	

COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after remained stable in 2012/13, but reduced in 2013/14 with **8** out of 100 CLA achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths.
- ❖ Across England in 2012/13, just over **15** per 100 children looked after achieved 5 A*-C inc. English & Maths, slightly more than Lancashire's **13** per 100.
- ❖ The young people were shocked at these statistics and suggested the following reasons as to why this may be:
 - CLA are pulled out of lessons by social workers. Meetings may also run over and as such CLA are missing too much time from their lessons. One young person missed an exam due to this and did not receive an apology which upset them.
 - The young people suggested that if staff have to visit them whilst in school, to plan better in terms of meeting the young person on a break or at lunch time. It was also suggested that it may better suit the young person better to be removed from certain lessons if they are confident or feel that they're ahead within the lesson.
 - The stress of placement moves, which sometimes require a change in school, was also highlighted. Due to the nature of schools covering parts of the curriculum at different times of the year, those moving schools may miss vital parts of the syllabus.

- Young people would like additional tutors to be made available in children's homes and for those children that are fostered. Looked after children should be entitled to additional support where school moves occur.
- ❖ Young people believe the target performance for CLA achieving 5 GCSEs at A* - C should be 100%. They feel that children undertaking other courses would mean that this wouldn't be attainable, therefore those completing other courses and qualifications should also be included.
 - Whilst the above is a good idea to include the results obtained by children undertaking alternative education, this performance indicator is calculated in this manner as it is a national indicator and all authorities are required to provide information on those achieving 5 GCSEs, including 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 above target in 2013/14 with all children looked after only missing **4** out of every 100 sessions in school
- Attendance in secondary school was better than last year, with all children looked after missing **5** out of every 100 sessions possible in school.
- There are two sessions possible each school day; a morning session and an afternoon session. If a child is absent for a lesson in either they are deemed as absent.

	Previous Performance			Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14		
Primary	96.3%	96.2%	97.0%	97.2%	96.0%	😊
	↗	↘	↗	↗	↗	
Secondary	92.5%	94.3%	92.0%	95.0%	96.0%	☹
	↘	↗	↘	↗	✘	

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Young people feel that the lower performance for secondary school pupils are a reflection of the increased age of these pupils and the free will exerted by those who are older leading them to miss school. The stress of placement moves and of being in care were also cited as reasons for non-attendance, particularly in those secondary school age children and young people.
- ❖ Young people feel that they should be able to choose what they do at school, for example, completing exams or doing practical courses and perhaps going to college earlier than usual to start these courses.
- ❖ Young people believe CLA could be marked as absent from a lesson if they are attending a CLA meeting instead, which is not necessarily the young person's fault. If the young

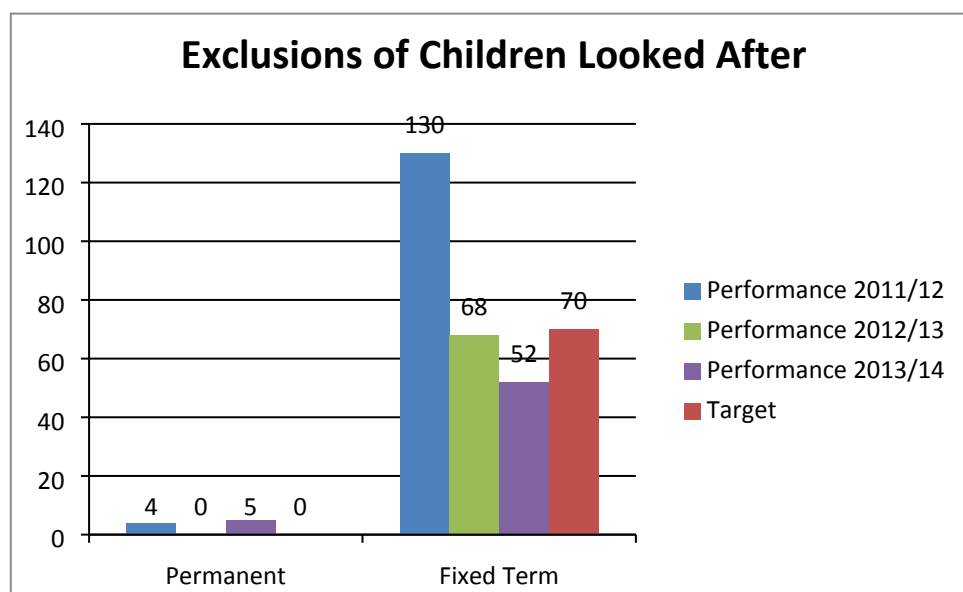
person does not attend for the morning/afternoon, this would be classed as an absent, but potentially authorised, session.

- ❖ Young people feel that sometimes young people withdraw themselves from lessons if they are not able to cope and speak to their designated teacher or someone they feel comfortable talking to.

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 **5** permanent exclusions of children looked after, an increase from 0 the previous year.
- In the last year there were **52** fixed term exclusions of children looked after, down from **68** the previous year – both lower than the target of **70**, which is good!
- The number of fixed term exclusions has fallen again and is well within the targets set by the Corporate Parenting Board. However, there were a number of permanent exclusions within the last year which means, unlike last year, the target of zero permanent exclusions has not been met.



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Young people would like there to be more research into the reasons for fixed term exclusions. Are schools aware of other factors in the young persons' lives that may be affecting their behaviour at school? If so, are schools offering the right support for those young people?
- ❖ Young people would like to know why the target of 0 permanent exclusions has not yet been met. The target of 0 was met as recently as 2012/13 however 5 looked after children were permanently excluded in 2013/14.
- ❖ LINX would like to know the reasons for the 5 permanent exclusions in 2013/14.

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, **7** as at 30th June 2015.
- In Q4 14/15, just under 3 out of **100** children looked after were involved with the youth offending teams, whilst just under **1** out of **1000** children and young people were involved with youth offending teams.
- Based on these figures, children looked after are twenty one times more likely to be involved with youth offending teams than those not looked after.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER WITH AN UP-TO-DATE HEALTH AND DENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- **92** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (June 2015)
- This is a higher level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year (2014/15 - 87)
- **75** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (June 2015)
- This has increased recently after reaching a year-low in April 2015 of **73** out of 100.

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.
- ❖ Lancashire is currently focusing on improving the timeliness of health assessments in partnership with health colleagues.
- ❖ Young people feel that the percentage of those with an up-to-date health assessment should be higher – somewhere between 90% and 95%. This was last achieved in June 2015.
- ❖ Young people feel that they should be given a choice as to whether they want a health assessment or not. Young people should only be made to have one if there is a cause for concern. Young people feel health assessments should be different for each individual. Also, if a young person has a check up at the doctors, this should be counted as a health assessment.
- ❖ Young people also feel that health assessments need to be confidential as in the past some LINX members have had foster carers in the assessments which can be uncomfortable when they are being asked personal questions.
- ❖ Young people asked whether health and dental assessments could continue after leaving care.



ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

ADOPTION ORDERS

- **279** children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased to **121** children looked after being adopted in 2014/15, much higher than in previous years.



- **23** children have been adopted during Quarter 1 2015/16.
- LINX would like to know the ages of those adopted as theorised that it's more difficult to place a child after they are 2 years old, and much more difficult to place a teenager. 93 (77%) of the children adopted in the last year were matched to a family before the age of 3. The eldest child that was adopted in 2014/15 was matched to a family at the age of 8.

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:

- **120** looked after children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 2014/15.
- **16** looked after children were given a permanent home under residence order during 2014/15, 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; **257** in 2014/15 which represents considerable success.

OUTCOMES FOR CARE LEAVERS

CARE LEAVERS IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION (OLD NI 147)

Suitable accommodation is regarded as suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people. The percentage of care leavers at age 19 that are living in "suitable accommodation":



- In 2013/14, out of 100 care leavers, **82** 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.
- ❖ Performance as at the end of Q2 in September 2014 was 64.3%
- ❖ Young people feel that the target should be 100% as everyone is entitled to be safe and secure. Young people wish to know where the others are residing to not meet this definition.
- ❖ Young people feel that when a young person leaves care, placement options should be available for the young person to consider, review and be approved before the change. Moreover, more support needs to be given around budgeting, as this could lead to problems paying for rent. Young people think that all children looked after should be involved in this process.

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 2013/14, **48** out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19th 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 **86** out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (Sep 2014)
- 2014/15 info is still provisional and will be provided in the next report.

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance improved slightly in 2012/13, but dipped to low performance in 2013/14.
- ❖ Performance as at the end of September 2014 shows **32** out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19th birthday which was a further drop from end of June figure of **41** out of 100.
- ❖ Young people feel that this isn't good enough and more young people should be in education or training
- ❖ Young people feel that individuals, due to potentially poor school grades, need more apprenticeships and volunteering schemes to be accessible. Funding could be used as an early intervention to help young people with grades in the form of extra tuition.
- ❖ Young people feel more help could be given to help young people to find courses and employment. Assistance with writing CVs or developing ICT and/or skills were highlighted as key. Furthermore, available funds in the form of college bursaries should be more accessible as not everyone is aware of what they are entitled to financially.

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.
- Of these 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.
- In 2013/14 there were 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students.
- In 2014/15 there are 40 care leavers studying at university, including 10 first year students.
- 3 care leavers retook a year in 2014/15.



COMMENTS:

- ❖ There is a good level of Care Leavers at University in each of the last three 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.
- ❖ Young people feel that these figures show good progress, but there should be many more care leavers going to university.

- ❖ Young people feel that out of term accommodation needs to be more readily available as has been cited as a contributing factor in a young person's decision not to attend higher education.
- ❖ Young people believe other CLA are not aware of the support and funding available to them. The extra provisions that are available could support more young people through university. Support awareness has been spreading, but more could be done at a younger age to give young people the required information to inform their decision to attend higher education at an earlier stage.
- ❖ Currently, the staying put policy applies to Lancashire "in-house" foster carers but discussions are encouraged to occur surrounding those looked after children placed with independent fostering agencies regarding the possibility of staying put.
- ❖ Young people also suggested that leaving care and starting university occurs at the same time and this can be a stressful time for the young people involved. Individuals may also be put off the idea of attending university as they may be worried about not having anywhere to live during the holidays.
- ❖ Information for those attending university in 2014/15 is provisional and is subject to change.



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report Feedback from LINX



Focus on Outcomes for Care Leavers

Latest statistics up to September 2014



CARE LEAVERS IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION



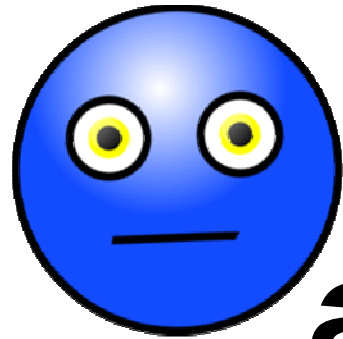
**“Suitable accommodation is
regarded as suitable
if it provides safe,
secure
and affordable
provision for young people”**



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

In 2013/14

out of **100** care leavers,
82 are considered to be



in “suitable
accommodation”

**This is lower than
two years ago,
when 93 out of 100
were in “suitable
accommodation”**

**The number of care
leavers in *suitable
accommodation* has
declined from a high level
in 2010/11 to a lower level
in recent years**

Performance as at the end of Quarter 2 in September 2014 was

64.3%



This is **below** the
target of **89** out of
100





What LINX have to say.....

**The number of Care Leavers
in suitable accommodation
is declining and below the
national average – this is not
acceptable**

**There should
be clear and consistent
standards for what makes
accommodation
'suitable'**

**The target of care leavers
living in suitable
accommodation should be
100% as everyone is
entitled to be
safe and secure**

**When a young person
leaves care, placement options
should be available for them
to consider, review
and be approved
before the move**

**more support needs to be
given around budgeting-
as this often leads to problems**

**Missing rent payments could
result in eviction**




CARE LEAVERS IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING





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

**As at the end of 2013/14,
48 out of 100 care
leavers were in
education, training or
employment on their
 19th birthday**

**This is a lower
performance than in
2012/13 when 55 out of
100 care leavers were in
education, training or
employment**



**Nationally, 86 out of 100
young people aged 16-24
are in education, training
or employment
(Sep 2014)**



What LINX have to say.....

**Care Leavers in Lancashire
should be accessing education,
employment or training at the
same rate as other Care
Leavers in England**

**Care Leavers need
more support to access the
available apprenticeships
and volunteering schemes**

**Funding could be used
as an early intervention
to help young people with
grades in the form
of extra tuition**

**More help is needed
to help care leavers
find courses
and employment**

**Assistance
with writing CVs or
developing ICT and/or skills
is crucial**

**Available funds
in the form of college bursaries
should be more accessible as not
everyone is aware of what they
are entitled to financially**



In 2013/14 there were 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students

In **2014/15** there are **40**
care leavers studying at
university, including **10** first
year students

3 care leavers retook a
year in **2014/15**



What LINX have to say.....



**The decision to study
at University must be an
appropriate choice for the
applicant and suitable students
need to be well supported**

**There should be
more support for care
leavers to get into
universities**



**Not all Care Leavers
are aware of the
support and funding
available to them**

**Workers need
to know their stuff
and share information**

Individuals may be put off attending university as they may be worried about not having anywhere to live during the holidays

**At the moment
it can depend on where you live
and what worker you have
as to how much you
get to know
about your rights**

**Fully trained staff
who know about rights for
Care Leavers
and who keep their
knowledge current**

**better support for
Care Leavers at
an earlier age
to help them plan
making decisions
about higher education**

**leaving care and
starting university occur at
the same time making it a
stressful time for young
people**

**professionals
should recognize this and
provide additional
support if required**

**Out of term
accommodation needs
to be more readily
available for care
leavers**

**The 'Staying Put' policy
should apply to all Looked After
Children not just those placed
with Lancashire "in-house"
foster carers**

**The
End**

Care Leavers Quiz

Statistics taken from Care Leavers
Transition to Adulthood – July 2015
National Audit Office



Question 1

How many 16-18 year olds leave foster or residential care in England each year?



a) 10,000

b) 15,000

c) 20,000



Question 2

What % of care leavers
were placed in care
because of abuse or
neglect?



a) 42%

b) 52%

c) 62%



Question 3

What % of children in care have emotional health and behaviour that is considered *'normal'*?



a) 50%

b) 60%

c) 70%



Question 4

What % of those who were homeless had been in care at some point in their lives?

(in 2010)



a) 20%

b) 25%

c) 30%



Question 5

In 2009, What % of young men under the age of 21 who had come into contact with the criminal justice system had a care experience?



a) 29%

b) 39%

c) 49%



Question 6

What % of female care leavers became teenage parents?
(in 2014)



a) 22%

b) 32%

c) 42%



Question 7

By how many times are
looked after children
and care leavers more
likely to self harm in
adulthood?



a) 2-3 times more likely

b) 3-4 times more likely

c) 4-5 times more likely



Question 8

What % of 19 year old
care leavers were not in
education, employment
or training?
(in 2013/2014)



a) 36%

b) 41%

c) 46%



Question 9

What % of care leavers
live independently?
(in 2013/2014)



a) almost 50%

b) almost 60%

c) almost 70%



Question 10

What % of care leavers were judged by their local authorities to be living in 'suitable' accommodation?

(March 2014)



a) 90%

b) 93%

c) 99%



Bonus Question

What fraction of care leaver services have Ofsted inspections found to be requiring improvement or inadequate?



a) $1/4$

b) $1/3$

c) $2/3$



Now it's time
to see how
well you have
done...



Some worrying findings from the National Audit Office....



The department for education found that in 2013/2014 some local authorities had judged a small number of care leavers to be in 'suitable' accommodation when it seemed unlikely given the setting



The Department for Education does not collect data on care leavers after the age of 21 on their participation in employment, education, training, where they live or whether it is suitable accommodation



With more young people
over the age of 16
leaving care, the demand
for support is increasing
all the time



What does the future
hold for those children
and young people
preparing to Leave Care?



QUIZ Answers

Q 1 – 10,000, 15,000, 20,000 each year leave foster or residential care in England

Q 2 – 42%, 52%, 62% of children are placed in care because of abuse or neglect there for neglect

Q3 50%, 60%, 70% of children in care have emotional health and behavior that is considered to be *'normal'*

Q4 – 20%, 25%, 30% homeless had been in care

Q5 – 29%, 39%, 49% of young men who had come into contact with the criminal justice system were care experienced

Q6 – 22%, 32%, 42% became teenage parents

Q7 – 2-3, 3-4, 4-5 times more likely to self-harm in adulthood

Q8 – 36%, 41%, 46% of 19 year old care leavers not in education, employment or training

Q9 – almost 50%, almost 60%, almost 70% of care leavers live independently

Q10 – 90% 93%, 99% of care leavers accommodation judged suitable by their Local Authority

Bonus Question – 1/4, 1/3, 2/3, of care leavers services were judged by OFsted as requiring improvement or inadequate

New Belongings Care Leaver Project

The Plan

What is New Belongings?

- New Belongings is a group of care leavers who meet with the Minister for children in London. Their main aim is to improve the care leaver service within local authorities. This gives the chance for care leavers themselves to change things for the better!
- New Belongings has arrived in Lancashire!

What we are going to do within the next six months!

- We have a plan of what we intend to do within the next six months, New Belongings are helping us with this! We have a list of 8 things we want to get better at, improve on or achieve!

Personal Advisers

- Every 16 year old in care will be given a PA, they will support with preparation for living independently.
- We are going to provide training for PA's so that they can provide good support to care leavers.
- Support will continue to 21 or 25 in some circumstances.

Updating Information

- All the information about leaving care will be looked at and updated so all the information you get is correct and is easy to understand. This information will also be given to PA's and social workers. We will be looking at information such as:
 - Money- What you are entitled too
 - Staying Put
 - Flow chart for Social Workers and Personal Advisors
 - Evaluation Forms-We need to know how you feel about the support you receive-What's good or bad.

National Care Leaver Week

- We would like to organize an event for National Care Leavers week. This will be a fun packed week that will bring care leavers together from right across Lancashire.
- Care Leavers week 21st-28th October

Ideas Of What We Should Do?



PROUD Event

- We are also looking at the County PROUD Event and we want to highlight the achievements of care leavers at this event.



Benefits

- Some care leavers claim benefits when they leave care. THIS CAN BE CONFUSING and FRUSTRATING!! To make things easier we are making links with job centres in Lancashire with the aim that each one has a Care Leaver 'Champion' who can help with new claims and makes things a little less confusing!

Care Leaver Mentoring Scheme

- We are going to develop a care leaver mentoring scheme. This will be aimed at Lancashire County Council staff who could provide support for care leavers such as:
 - University
 - College
 - Training

Accommodation Options

- We would like to improve accommodation options for care leavers and ensure care leavers are better prepared for living independently. This would include:
- Tenancy awareness training for 16- 17 year olds
- Housing Panels-which will look at Housing Needs
- Independent living toolkit
- Unfortunately some care leavers become homeless-we are looking at what emergency options are available so alternative housing is found quickly.
- Set up a PA and care leaver focus group to look at housing issues/good practise. Accommodation checklist and Setting Up Home Allowance list.

Care Leaver Forum

- We will work with Barnardos to ensure that the forum has a good representation from care leavers all around the county.



Opt Out Approach to support CLA into Employment

Anne-Marie Morgan - Business Manager - Employment and Support Team

Employment & Support Team

(Part of the new Skills, Learning and Development Service)

- In-house service who provide workforce planning solutions for Lancashire County Council and other organisations
- Achieving our social and economic priority
- Reducing unemployment costs and indirect social costs
- Seamless and efficient delivery
- Achieving our social and economic priority
- Two tier delivery with District Partners
- Lancashire to develop best practice and share nationally

Our Credentials

- Public Sector's People's Manager's Award 2010
 - Talent Management
 - Finalists for Innovation, HR Efficiency and Business Impact and Outstanding Professional Contribution
- LSC Employer of the Year - Macro Business NW Highly Commended
- LGC Finalists – Workforce Category 2011 – Highly Commended
- NAS North West Macro Employer of the Year 2011
- City and Guilds 'Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer 2011'
- Personnel Today Awards 2011 – Finalist for HR Impact Award
- The HR Distinction Awards 2012 Finalists in Distinction in Adding Value and Winner Distinction in Talent Management Execution
- LGC 2013 – Finalists for Innovation
- Youth Friendly Badge
- Gold Standard from Fair Train for work experience
- LGC 2015 - Finalists
- HR Distinction Awards 2015 - Finalists
- Recruiter Awards 2015 Won for Best Apprentice/school leaver recruitment



Our Current Customers

- Public Sector
 - All LCC Services
 - District Partners
 - Education Sector
- Private Sector
 - Lancashire SME's
 - LCC Supply chain/ Partners
- Regional/National
 - Consultants for National Apprenticeship Service

Future Horizons (pre-apprenticeship)

Future Horizons

LCC pre-apprenticeship programme – NEET's aged 16-18

Tailored programme to suit individual needs; work placement of 8 weeks (but can be up to 15 weeks), working 3-4 days a week with an employer.

Future Horizons +

12 month paid training contract (paid at a minimum rate of the national apprenticeship minimum wage)

Introduction to Future Horizons

Working with individual school pupils targeting potential NEET's aged 14-16 identified by the school

Apprenticeships

- Some CLA young people may be ready for an apprenticeship opportunity with the county council and partners
- Awareness raising and application workshop support for CLA young people regarding apprenticeship opportunities within LCC and support accordingly

WorkStart

- 8 week work placement that helps young people (18-24) who are actively seeking work and registered unemployed
- Opportunity to update , skills, experience and gain confidence in the workplace
- Placements can be in the public or private sector
- Support after the placement to source paid employment

Ex-Service Personnel Mentors

- Age : 14-16 CLA, (Years 9,10 and 11)
- Access to mentoring services with the agreement of the School Pastoral Manager
- Aids progression, attendance, attainment

General Work Experience

- Subject to agreement of the high school, college, further education provider (term-time)
- Can be linked to specific employability aims, vocation
- Aids with CV development
- Opportunity to work shadow an individual

Professional Apprentices and Trainees

- Some CLA young people may be ready for a Professional Apprenticeship or Trainee Opportunity - developing a professional career pathway.
- Awareness raising and workshop support for CLA young people regarding apprenticeship opportunities within LCC and support accordingly
- Minimum of £500,000 reserved to create opportunities for CLA young people April 2015-March2017

OUR OFFER TO CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

The Opt Out Approach

- Auto-enrolment onto Employment Programmes – agreed at Management Team
- All CLA within the age range of 14-24 would need to actively state and personally confirm that they are choosing to not access the corporate offers
- Reviewed annually as part of the care plan and documented accordingly

Approach

- Data sharing - know destinations of young people - known/unknown
- Referral from the service/key worker/Designated person
- Self referral from CLA young person
- Regular briefings from Employment and Support Team to the frontline professionals supporting CLA

Next Steps

- Your professional input regarding next steps for example:
 - Communication channels
 - Awareness raising
 - Other

Contact Details

**Anne-Marie Morgan – Employment and Support Business
Manager**

01772 530505

Anne-marie.morgan@Lancashire.gov.uk

