

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 4th February, 2016 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| County Councillor Sue Pryn (Chair) | - Lancashire County Council |
| County Councillor Margaret Brindle | - Lancashire County Council |
| County Councillor Ian Brown | - Lancashire County Council |
| County Councillor Dorothy Lord | - Lancashire County Council |
| County Councillor Miss Kim Snape | - Lancashire County Council |
| Catherine | - representing Adoption |
| Tony Morrissey | - Deputy Director, Children's Services |
| Lynsey Evans | - Fostering Forum |
| Mark | - LINX Representative |
| Gavin | - LINX Representative |
| Beth | - LINX Representative |
| Kristal | - LINX Representative |

Co-opted members

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Nicola Bamford | - Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG |
| Kate Baggaley | - Barnardos |
| Audrey Swann | - Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children |
| Amanda Mansfield | - Independent Reviewing Officers |
| Susan Towers | - Agency Residential |
| Angela Epps | - Agency Fostering |
| Louise Burton | - Chorley, South Ribble, Greater Preston, West Lancs, Preston CCG |
| Mia Whitbread | - Barnardos |

Other Attendees

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Angela Esslinger | - Complaints and Appeals Team |
| Sam Gorton (Clerk) | - Democratic Services, LCC |
| Councillor Michael Green | - South Ribble Borough Council |
| John Marr | - Contract Management, Care and Public Health |

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Beavers and Gibson, Jane Simpson, Mark Twiname, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Debbie Duffell and Annette McNeil.

County Councillor (CC) Sue Prynn welcomed two new representatives for the next 12 months, Susan Towers from Agency Residential and Angela Epps from Agency Fostering.

Councillors Moon and Green, South Ribble Borough Council attended from 6.25pm.

John Marr was also in attendance as CC Prynn wanted to thank him personally for his commitment and support over the last 23 years with LCC and more recently for his involvement with the Board. John will be leaving the Authority in March 2016.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 3 December 2015

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

3. What our Elected Members have been doing (20 mins)

CC Prynn

Care Leavers Email Project

CC Prynn reported that there had been some follow up on the email project that BTLs had been leading on and due to various issues, this had not progressed. Another option could be that young people submitted their email addresses and signed up to a mailing list. A letter could be sent out explaining the purpose and why the Board were wanting to do this and then a group would be set up containing all email addresses. This was to be looked at with Barnardos.

Action: CC Prynn will look into this further.

Regulation 22

CC Prynn had recently undertaken a visit to Lancaster. The report is being finalised.

CC Brown

Had been involved with shortlisting for the PROUD awards. There had been approximately 80 nominations, which had been shortlisted to 28 finalists and 11 winners. The event would be held on 4 March 2016 at Preston North End Football Ground.

CC Brindle

Noted that the response from Cllr John Harbour was very positive and that there was also another project in Burnley, the Elizabeth St Project which was working well. It was a former Council owned building that had been converted into flats to give supported accommodation to vulnerable people when needed.

CC Brindle reported that she would be attending the PROUD awards in her role as Chairman of the County Council. She had also hosted a Young Carers reception for 4-16 year olds, which CC Brindle found really rewarding and thanked Barnardos for arranging the transport for the young carers.

CC Brindle opened Moorside School in Lancaster and attended the Holocaust Memorial Service where three Lancashire Schools were also involved.

Care Leavers

Issues have arisen about how well supported care leavers feel when they leave residential care. There was a need to look at a gradual system to support care leavers when they moved onto independent living. Currently the Staying Put policy was only for young people that are fostered, there was nothing in legislation for those in residential care.

CC Prynne was proposing to put forward a motion for Full Council to lobby Central Government to have Staying Put for all Care Leavers not just for those in fostering placements.

Housing

At the meeting held on 10 September 2015, various District Councillors attended and the Board challenged them to revisit their housing policies and ensure that there were references to Care Leavers within them. An email had subsequently been sent to all District Councils following this up and there had been only one reply which was from Cllr John Harbour, Burnley Borough Council. A copy of his reply was circulated at the meeting and is attached for reference.

Action: CC Prynne agreed to link in with Cllr Harbour and look at best practice and set a precedence, so other Councils would follow.

Cllr Moon gave feedback from South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) on their housing policy, however this had not been updated since 2008. Regular monthly meetings with LCC Leaving Care Team and SRBC appear to have ceased following changes at LCC.

Action: Tony Morrissey to follow up as to why these meetings have ceased.

Cllr Moon stated that she would like to link in with New Belongings scheme.

Action: Tony Morrissey to ask Jane Hylton to contact Cllr Moon.

Cllr Moon raised a comment with regards supported accommodation and rent being charged if a young person is undertaking an apprenticeship programme. There should be a disregard on payment if that is the case to encourage young people to take up an apprenticeship/training programme without having a detrimental effect on their benefits. CC Brindle suggested that hardship disregards could be put into the policy.

Action: CC Moon to report back on the suggestion that hardship disregards should be included in the housing policy.

SRBC could carry this out as a pilot and if successful then it could be rolled out across all the districts and ensure it was included in all Housing Policies.

Community Safety Partnership

CC Prynne highlighted that there was a new act for 'legal highs' from the Government in relation to Psychoactive Substances and all Members of the Board were encouraged to read it.

4. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX gave feedback from the presentation attached as to what they had been doing since the last meeting. More information regarding the Narey's Review was received, which is a focus group of the Office of the Children's Commissioner and 13 young people attended a meeting on 21 December 2015 where issues raised were fed into a National report on residential care. Issues arising were around more support required for moving into independent living and transport – being transported in vehicles that clearly belonged to a children's home. Once the report had been compiled, LINX would feedback to the Board.

The Children's Rights Alliance for England project had been extended and recommendations should come out in June/July and funding was from Comic Relief.

Young Inspectors

More Young Inspectors training had been undertaken on a residential weekend away. Young people who were trained were helping new recruits undertake training. Kristal, Beth and Gavin are heavily involved with the Inspection programme and enjoyed it as they got to meet new people and young people who lived in the homes they were inspecting, welcomed their involvement also.

Following on from the visits, young people detailed the action points, which they put in a report and sent to staff. A revisit is then undertaken. Currently they have a new visit planned for January and three in March which are all revisits, however, it may not be the same young people revisiting.

CPB Performance Report

The young people stated there were a number of positives from the report attached and that Diane Booth was due to visit a LINX meeting in March to answer any queries on the report.

With regards the statement that CLA are 21 times more likely to be involved with YOT, it would be useful to invite someone along to a Board meeting to see what is being done to reduce this number.

Action: YOT to be invited to a future Board meeting.

Susan Towers commented that they had worked closely with YOT Prevention Officers and felt it had helped in their settings. CC Prynne asked what LCC had in place with the YOT Service for CLA.

Action: Tony Morrissey to follow this up and provide further information to the Board.

Health and Wellbeing

LINX led the Board through an activity, where CC Brown carried lots of boxes with emotions on them whilst answering questions as attached. The aim was to show how young people felt when having to make decisions and carry all the emotional baggage around with them at the same time.

Louise Burton informed the meeting that there was a full redesign in respect to mental health for children and young people. Workshops had been designed and LCC Youth Council had been involved with particular pieces of work and CLA had been a focus. CC Prynne asked that Kate Baggaley and Louise talk outside of the meeting to involve LINX in further work around this.

Fostering and Adoption

The attached activity was taken from Ofsted's State of Nation Report December 2015.

Six members of LINX met with the Adoption and Fostering Panel in October and following that some panellists had changed the way they asked questions in light of what young people had said. A list of questions that young people shared with the panel is attached for perusal.

The results from the flipchart activity on how young people can be involved with fostering and adoption recruitment is also attached.

The Board offered a huge thanks to LINX for the detailed feedback on what they had been involved with since the last meeting.

5. LCC Complaints and Feedback 2014/15 (15 mins)

Angela Esslinger spoke to the report that had been circulated with the agenda.

Further information on the Children's Social Care Complaints and Representations system can be found via the following [link](#).

One young person raised a specific issue in relation to timeliness and response to their complaint, which also resulted in a safeguarding issue.

Action: Tony Morrissey to pursue this specific issue further with relevant officers and also ensure that staff in all departments can recognise potential safeguarding incidents and know how to respond to these appropriately.

6. CLA Attainment (15 mins)

Unfortunately, due to the length of other items on the agenda, there was insufficient time left for a detailed report. Therefore it was agreed that this item be moved to the next agenda.

7. Any Other Business

There was no urgent business.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 7 April 2016 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston.

Minute Item 3

Gorton, Sam

From: Councillor John Harbour <JHarbour@burnley.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2016 16:39
To: Gorton, Sam
Cc: Paul Gatrell
Subject: Leaving Care policy

Hello Sam

Apologies for the late return of this information.

Here is a summary of Burnley Borough Council's policy on young people leaving care:

Once a person in care turns 18 they are no longer the responsibility/ legal duty of Social services in relation to accommodation. Hopefully therefore, prior to a person turning 18, the social worker should have made applications to supported accommodation schemes and/or the b-with-us scheme to ensure that the care leaver is in the process of applying for social housing. The intention is that the person can obtain accommodation before they turn 18. This is also reflected in the b-with-us policy.

On occasion, the Social worker will contact Burnley Borough Council Housing Needs team for advice and information, prior to the person needing accommodation. If the young person cannot access social housing for any reason, the Social Worker will look to secure accommodation in the private sector.

If the care leaver has not secured accommodation ready for when they turn 18, they can approach the Council for assistance with their housing. The Council will make an offer of temporary accommodation that would be most likely at the Elizabeth Street Project (ESP), or a B&B if ESP is full. The Housing Needs Officer will complete the supported accommodation referrals if they have not already been completed by the Social Worker and a b-with-us application for social housing.

During their time in temporary accommodation the Council will engage with the young person and the supported accommodation provider where appropriate to advise and assist them to find a settled housing solution.

If there have been instances of young people not being treated fairly in Burnley then I would wish to know about them. (I hope this is not the case).

If I, or more importantly, the Council's Housing Needs Officer, Wilma Waddingham, can help assist the County in improving its service to young people in this area then please let us know.

Best Wishes

John

Councillor John Harbour

Councillors

01282 425011 ext. 07854437365



Burnley Borough Council | Town Hall | Manchester Road
Burnley | Lancashire | BB11 9SA



What LINX Have Been Doing.....



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



We have attended executive meetings with Lancashire Youth Council



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



Primary Participation members visited the Guild Hall to watch a pantomime





23 members of POWAR and LINX attend Christmas Party







2 care leavers receive a Christmas hamper including turkey and all the trimmings





We have had two primary participation days at Walton-le-dale Youth Centre





Three members of LINX have attended 2 Post Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan meetings





**Members of LINX
continue to work on an
accredited project with
Uclan and have begun to
collect stories from young
people who have
experience of foster care**



Three members of LINX take part in shortlisting for the PROUD awards 2016



The Care Leavers Forum working in partnership with The Children's Society have met 2 times



The
Children's
Society





10 young people took part in a focus group with the Office of the Children's Commissioner contributing to Narey's review of residential care





Representatives from LINX and POWAR attend a meeting in London with the Children's Rights Alliance for England



Children Looked After have revisited Crestmoor residential unit and Bay 6 supported accommodation



**The
End**



Children Looked After Young Inspectors Update February 2016



February 2016

There are currently 12 trained members of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors Team

The Young Inspectors visit

- fostering agencies
- Lancashire County Council residential units
- Private residential units

In January, 2 young inspectors revisited a private supported accommodation unit for 16-25 year olds in Central Lancashire

The final report is currently being written by the young inspectors



In January a Lancashire County Council Residential Unit in North Lancashire was revisited.

The young inspectors are currently writing the final draft of the report.



In November 6 young people visited Barnardo's head office and have been invited to spend a day with chief executive to carry out an inspection. This is planned for April.

In January 1 member of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors visited Directors of Service within Barnardo's internal inspection team to speak about his involvement with young inspectors

Later this month members of the Young Inspectors will be showcasing their work in London at the Taking it to the Next Level event run by the National Children's Bureau and the Who Cares Trust.

In March further revisits are arranged for 3 private fostering agencies in Lancashire.

THANK
YOU





Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

**Our key comments
include.....**



Our main areas of concern:

- **Educational Attainment**
- **Permanent exclusions**
- **Number of children looked after**
 - **Stability of Placements**
- **Involvement with Youth Offending Teams**
- **Care Leavers Accommodation**

**The number of
Children looked
after in
Lancashire has
increased 3
months in a row**



**The current
number of looked
after children is lower
than 12 months ago**

**We like knowing
who are statistical
neighbours are so
we know who
Lancashire is being
compared to**

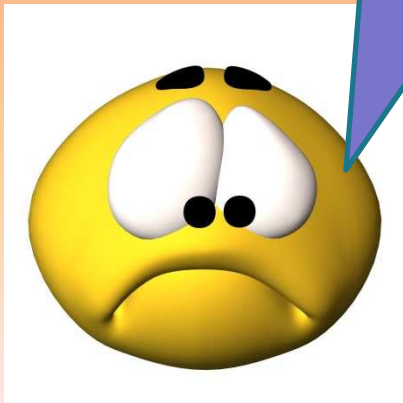


**Re-referral rate
has continued
to decline**

**The contact
centre has
received less
referrals than in
previous years,
although more
contacts**

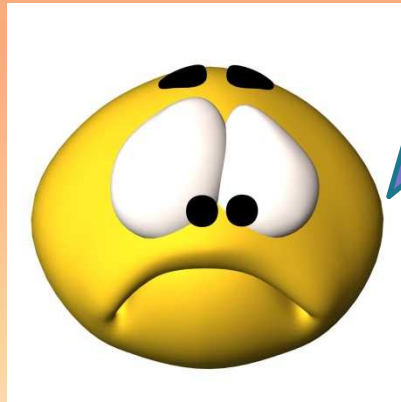


**6 out of 10
Looked After
Children have
moved twice or
more during the
past year, an
increase from
November**



**However this is
better than the
previous year
when it was 9 out
of 10 Looked
After Children**

**Stability of placements
are below target and less
than last year**



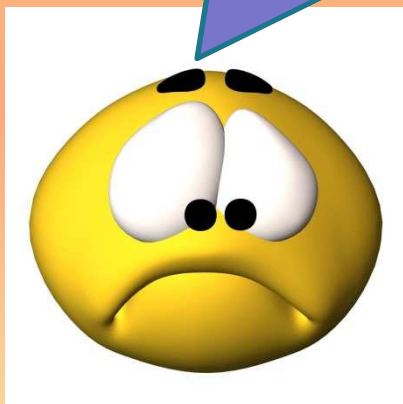
The procedure for young people missing from care is changing so we have a bit more time if we are just running late



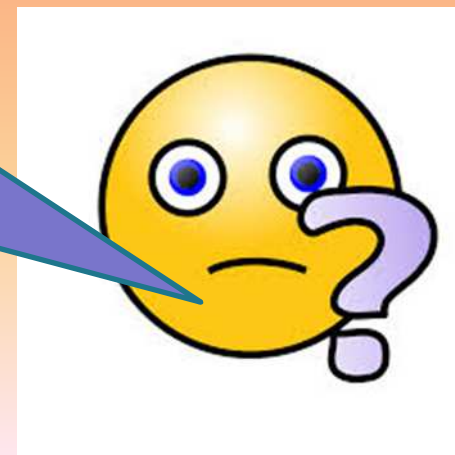
We still have concerns about the young people who go missing



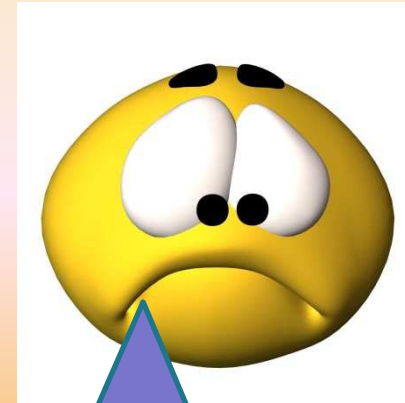
Looked After Children are still significantly lower than the national average in achieving grades A* -C in GCSE's including Maths and English



What is being done about this?

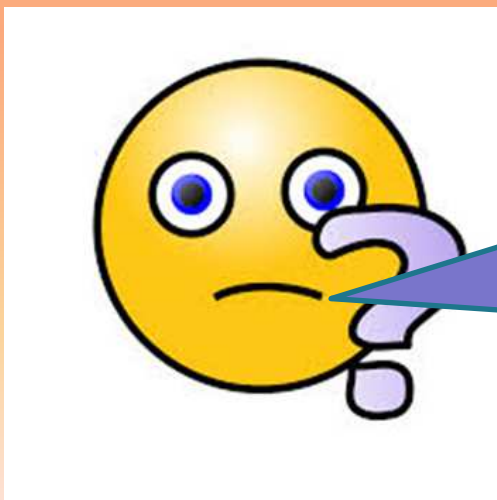
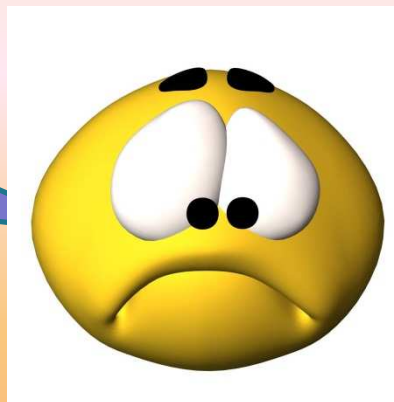


Attendance in both primary and secondary school has improved for Looked After Children



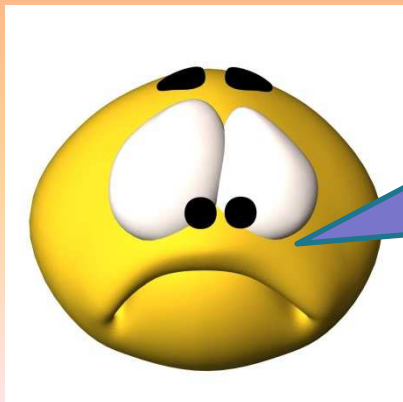
There were 5 permanent exclusions, the year before there were none. Have the reasons for these been looked into?

**Looked After
Children are 21
times more likely to
be involved with
Youth Offending
Teams**



**What are the reasons
for this? What is being
done to try and reduce
this number?**

The number of Looked After young people being given a permanent home has increased



There are care leavers living in accommodation considered unsuitable

The number of Care Leavers at University is increasing



The End

Young People and Mental Health

Please take our quiz

How many children and young people aged 5-16 years suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder?

A. 1 in 10

B. 3 in 10

C. 7 in 10

How many children under 10 years old suffer from severe depression?

A. Over 2,000

B. Over 8,000

C. Over 18,000

What percentage of adult
mental health problems starts by
the age of 18?

A. 35%

B. 50%

C. 75%

There has been a increase in the number of young people being admitted to hospital because of self harm. Over the last ten years this figure has increased by?

A. 37%

B. 42%

C. 68%

Since 2010 A&E visits by children and young people with mental health illness have almost doubled and the NHS have cut the children's mental health budget by ?

A. £10 Million

B. £35 Million

C. £50 Million

Some Looked After Children have behavioural or emotional problems. What percentage of looked after children do you think this applies to?

A. 39%

B. 64%

C. 72%

‘More than half of all adults with mental health problems were diagnosed in childhood.

Less than half were treated appropriately at the time’

Young Minds

‘There are serious and deeply ingrained problems with the commissioning and provision of Children’s and adolescents’ mental health services. These run through the whole system from prevention and early intervention through to inpatient services for the most vulnerable young people.’

House of Commons
Health Committee
Children's and adolescents' mental health and CAMHS
Third Report of Session 2014–15

Foster Care in England

The following statistics have been taken from Ofsted's State of the Nation Report December 2015

In order to answer the following questions you must get on your feet.

I will read out a statement and you must walk to either the arrow pointing upwards (indicating a higher number), or over to the arrow pointing downwards (indicating a lower number).

1. Number of children in foster care throughout 2014-2015 compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 2% 85,890 children and young people)
2. Number of fostering households in 2014-2015 compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is lower by 1% 36,890)
3. Number of young people living with their foster carer after their 18th birthday compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 2% 1,790)
4. Number of disabled children placed in foster care compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 3% 5,720)
5. Number of siblings placed together who were assessed to be placed together compared to the previous year?
(answer is higher by 5% 8,635)
6. The number of incidents of physical restraints compared to the previous year?
(answer is lower by 17% 1,025)
7. Number of children reported as going missing compared to the previous year?

(answer is higher by 19%)

8. The number of children in foster care with no educational arrangements or persistently absent from school compared to the previous year?

(answer is higher by 1%)

9. The number of **long-term** fostering households compared to the previous year?

(answer is lower by 1% 36,890)

Fostering and adoption teams in Lancashire have begun to work with LINX in order to involve the voice of the child in their future planning. In October 6 members of LINX met with panelists from fostering and adoption to talk about young people's participation in assessing and reviewing carers.

Can you suggest ways young people may get involved in improving outcomes for children and young people being cared for by adults other than their birth parents?

Some ideas we have been working on include:

- LINX Young Inspectors
- LINX Young people visiting foster carer support forums
- LINX's questions being asked at panel
- LINX member sitting on the panels
- LINX members sitting on interview panels for social workers entering foster and adoption
- LINX delivering training for carers
- LINX reviewing forms used by children and young people living in foster homes

See the ideas below are rate them:

LINX, Children in Care Council, questions for panel to ask on behalf of children and young people

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Do you have birth children and if so how would you ensure that fostered children feel as equal as any other children in your home?</p> | <p><i>Carers should include how they would love all their children (birth and foster) the same and would not do things like regularly send foster children to respite carers, go on separate holidays, buy different food, have different rules from the rest of the family.</i></p> |
| <p>2. How would you introduce extended family and friends to newly fostered children in your home?</p> | <p><i>Carers should include through conversations and joint activities like day trips, welcoming parties and meals together. Ask the fostered child/young person how they would like to be introduced before they meet other adults. Don't assume that the young person wants to go to events that involve extended family. If they are old enough to be left unsupervised then give them a choice as sometimes it is overwhelming meeting so many new people all at the same time.</i></p> |
| <p>3. Do you have regular family holidays and if so would you take any foster children in your care on holiday too?</p> | <p><i>Holidays should involve everyone, including foster children but special occasions like anniversaries etc. don't need to involve the whole family. Foster parents need a break like any birth parents do.</i></p> |
| <p>4. If a young person you were fostering had a history of criminal activity, how would you deal with this and show that you were not judging them?</p> | <p><i>That the carer understands that all young people need a second chance just like all adults should have a second chance. It is very important to be open and honest. Talk to the fostered child/young person about their criminal history. Do not assume that you know all the circumstances. Set clear boundaries for them. Don't jump to conclusions. Don't be afraid to ask challenging questions. Be prepared for difficult times. Most importantly be forgiving. Don't give up.</i></p> |
| <p>5. How would you keep young people occupied?</p> | <p><i>That carers are willing to invest time with their foster children doing things like going for walks, eating together and spending time together after school doing activities that the young person finds interesting. Carers should not just offer foster children a room to use in their spare time. Find out what the fostered child/young person is interested in. Introduce them to new activities. Do not assume that the fostered child/young person will enjoy the same</i></p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <i>activities that you enjoy.</i> |
| 6. What sorts of activities do you feel are valuable? | <i>Family meal times spent together, family discussions and family holidays/ trips/ activities.</i> |
| How much does having a family mean to you? | <i>You can't buy children and that having a family and spending time together does not require lots of money but does require an investment of the carers' time.</i> |
| 7. How would you invest the money you receive for being a foster carer? | <i>We would expect the adult to say that they would invest the money into providing positive experiences for the fostered child and not on practical issues for example having a new bathroom installed.</i> |
| 8. How would you deal with challenging behaviour? | <i>Agreeing ground rules/ house rules with child or young person Taking appropriate action, imposing sanctions Restraining should only ever be a final resort. Talking Rewards charts/ incentives Work with the fostered child/young person to understand that actions have consequences.</i> |
| 9. If you were to relocate how would you try to keep consistency for the foster child? | <i>The foster child should remain at the same school if that was possible as this is very important. Carers should also help foster children to maintain friendships they have made with other children.</i> |
| 10. How would you ensure that you can deal with the challenges that lie ahead? | <i>The carers would go on all the available training and attend foster carer support group meetings. Talk to children in their care and try to address issues and problems Rewards charts/ incentives Work together with professionals like social workers, family support workers and Independent Reviewing Officers.</i> |

Feedback from CPB on Fostering and Adoption

How can young people get involved?

Group 1:

- Training – Staff, Panel and Applicants
- Care Leaver on Panel
- Foster Carer Reviews
- Recruitment
- Information Evening
- Information Pack – What it includes
- Assessment – Skills and Abilities
- Advice – Their story/experience
- Marketing process

Group 2:

- Young Inspectors
- Getting involved in boards
- Getting involved with local authority placement teams e.g. with how you match
- Helping to train foster carers themselves
- Getting involved in the design of questions for foster carers
- Involvement in the selection and recruitment process

Group 3:

- A member of LINX on the fostering panel
- LINX member on adoption panel
- Supporting foster carers – how to deal with challenges with YP
- Buddy system for new foster children
 - Those who have just come into care
 - Act as an advocate

Group 4:

- Input into the preparation exercises for the Form F process
- A booklet (general) which contains the children and young people's voice, experience – reality check for those potential carers to feel the reality
- Feed into pre-panel training and induction training

