

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

## Agenda

**1. Appointment of Chair**

*Sam Gorton*

To note that County Councillor Susan Prynn is the Chair of the Board for the municipal year 2016/2017.

**2. Introductions and Apologies**

*County Councillor Prynn*

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

**3. Membership and Terms of Reference**

(Pages 1 - 6)

*County Councillor Prynn*

The Board is asked to agree the current terms of reference and membership.

**4. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 28 April 2016**

(Pages 7 - 14)

*County Councillor Prynn*

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

**5. What our Elected Members have been doing (15 mins)**

*County Councillor Prynn and other Elected Members*

To note feedback from work undertaken by the Chair of the Board and our Elected Members as part of their role on the CPB, including Member visits carried out since the last meeting.

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

### **6. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)**

*Young People and Barnardos*

To receive feedback on the work our young people have been doing including:

- What have LINX been doing?
- Young Inspectors
- Care Leavers Pledge from the Children's Society
- CPB Performance Report.
- Fostering and Adoption

## **What Do We Need to Know**

### **7. Housing (30 mins)**

*Diane Booth*

To receive feedback on work being carried out around housing.

### **8. Fostering Update (15 mins)**

*Georgine Lee*

To receive an update on what has been happening in the Fostering Service since the Ofsted Inspection.

### **9. Any Other Business**

*County Councillor Prynn*

To receive any other business.

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

*County Councillor Prynn*

Thursday, 4 August 2016 at 1.30pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

## **Information Item**

### **11. PROUD Evaluation**

(Pages 15 - 18)

To note the report.

## **Constitution, Terms of Reference and Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board**

### **Terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Board**

To make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People.

1. To make sure that the whole council and relevant partner agencies commit to excellent standards of corporate parenting.
2. To set high expectations and stable relationships for all children in care.
3. To seek improved long term outcomes for children in care and their families – for their happiness; well-being; educational success; and future prospects.
4. To make sure that the voice of the child and young person in care influences both policy and the services that they receive, and that young people are engaged with any action intended to develop and improve services or to recruit key staff members.
5. To oversee and monitor the key performance indicators for the health, well-being and education of looked after children.
6. To consider the outcomes of regulatory visits and inspection reports on provision for children in care and to receive regular reports on:
  - the work of the adoption and fostering services;
  - work experience schemes;
  - provision for leaving care, housing and training for care leavers; and
  - work with those in the Secure Estate.
7. To ensure that relevant key plans, strategies and associated resources identify and make explicit the contribution that they make to targets agreed for improvement.
8. To celebrate the achievements of children looked after and their carers.
9. To develop an informed view of County Council provision and services through a programme of well planned visits and feedback from Board members.
10. To ensure that children looked after by the local authority are offered the protection of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2 September 1990.
11. To establish and maintain specific task groups as necessary to make recommendations to it.

## **Constitution**

All Members of the Board and the Chair of the Board will be appointed by the Leader who will determine their period of office.

All Elected Members of the Board must receive CRB clearance.

The Board will comprise of at least the following members but the Leader may appoint additional members at his/her discretion:

- One or more of the largest group Members
- Opposition Groups Member nominee(s)
- Deputy Director of Children's Services
- Family/carers representatives
- Children and Young People in Care and Care Leavers representing young people from across the county

**All the above members of the Board will be entitled to vote and the Chair will have a casting vote.**

The Leader can make changes to the above appointments at any time.

- No Cabinet members will serve on the Board

## **Co-opted membership**

The Board may co-opt representatives, without voting rights, from significant services involved in corporate parenting:

Children's Trust arrangements  
Health provision – including CAMHS  
Children's centres  
Wellbeing, Early Help and Prevention  
Schools  
Colleges  
Police  
Youth Justice  
Private sector provision  
Voluntary sector provision  
Safeguarding Board

The Board can make changes to the co-opted representation at any time.

The Board does not have decision-making powers and is not a formal Committee of the County Council.

**The Board will receive advice and reports from the following:**

- (a) The Headteacher of the Virtual School for Looked After Children
- (b) CiCC - Lancashire's Children in Care Council
- (c) Children and Young People's Champions:
  - representing the elected members of Lancashire County Council
  - representing the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- (d) Children's Right Service



# **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

## **August 2015**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
CC Susan Pryn	Chair - Labour
CC Lorraine Beavers	Labour
CC Julie Gibson	Labour
CC Kim Snape	Labour
CC Margaret Brindle	Liberal Democrats
CC Dorothy Lord	Liberal Democrats
CC Ian Brown	Conservative
Vacancy	
6 Young People Reps	
Catherine Jenni Cocker	Adoptive Representative Adoptive Representative
Jane Simpson	Foster Carer
Tony Morrissey	Deputy Director of Children's Services
Lynsey Evans/ Mark Twiname	Foster Carer Forum Reps
<b>CO-OPTED MEMBER</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Debbie Ross	Primary Care Trust Representative
Nicola Bamford	Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician
Debbie Duffell	Head of Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help (Start Well)
Audrey Swann	Headteacher for Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Diane Booth	Head of Children's Social Care
Amanda Mansfield	Independent Reviewing Officer
Susan Towers	Agency Residential
Angela Epps	Agency Fostering





# Agenda Item 4

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 28th April, 2016 at 6.00 pm in  
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

**Present: Members**

County Councillor Sue Pryn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Lorraine Beavers	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Tony Morrissey	- Deputy Director, Children's Services
Bradley	- LINX Representative
Mark	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Beth	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative
Mary-Beth	- LINX Representative
Bethany	- LINX Representative
Meghan	- LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Susan Towers	- Agency Residential
Cheryl Lovell	- Agency Fostering
Michelle Dawson	- Barnardos
Annette McNeil	- Policy, Information and Commissioning Service

**Other Attendees**

Kirsty Clarke	- Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services, LCC
Georgine Lee	- Senior Manager, Fostering and Adoption
Linda Clegg	- Director for Children's Services

## **1. Introductions and Apologies**

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor (CC) Lord, CC Snape, Jane Simpson, Lynsey Evans, Mark Twiname, Nicola Bamford, Diane Booth, Amanda Mansfield and Angela Epps.

County Councillor Beavers attended the meeting from 6.50pm.

One of the young people, had taken part in a sponsored head shave for the Teenage Cancer Trust and members were asked if they would like to sponsor him.

## **2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 4 February 2016**

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

## **3. CLA Attainments**

Audrey Swann spoke to the presentation as attached.

A study has been done recently on the Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England: Linking Care and Educational Data. Audrey presented a summary of the key messages from the report attached. A full report can also be found [here](#).

Catherine asked that with the changes in SATs this year, how confident was the Authority that the improvements would be maintained. Audrey indicated that they would expect to see a drop in attainment, just like last year when the GCSE's changed, however, there were other measures carried out to ensure the changes were not significant. Audrey reiterated that it was important to measure progress of children looked after (CLA) and ensure that the pupil premium was being used effectively.

CC Prynn noted that the research that had been carried out was very important since it highlighted educational attainment differentials between Children in Need (CIN) and Children in Care, illustrating how attainment increased for the latter group. This was a positive message demonstrating how taking a Child In Need into care can improve their educational outcomes.

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

### **CC Prynn**

CC Prynn reported that she had been carrying out work on policies for CLA especially around care leavers. Currently there is no policy on what the Authority offers care leavers and what they are guaranteed to receive when they leave care, therefore this is resulting in inconsistencies across this area. CC Prynn is looking to set up a Task and Finish Group to devise a policy which will set out

information on what is offered. Guidance on the Leaving Care Grant needs to be included in the policy, so that young people in secure settings, have access to the grant when they leave that setting. CC Prynn invited Elected Members of the Board to be on the Task and Finish Group.

**Action:** Elected Members to email CC Prynn if they wish to be on the Task and Finish Group.

At Full Council on 25 February 2016, CC Prynn submitted a notice of motion for this Council to call on the Government to amend the Children and Families Act 2014 to enable all children in residential care to stay under the care of the Local Authority until 21 years of age. It was agreed that, as this Motion had received unanimous, cross-party support, the letter to be sent by the Chief Executive to the Secretary of State would be signed by each of the political group leaders. A letter has now been sent to Edward Timpson, Minister of State for Children and Families at Department for Education.

A complaint had been received from a young person at Bowerham Road Residential Unit. The associated complaint investigation report is still outstanding however actions have been undertaken and the young person concerned appears to be happy with the outcome when asked about this at a recent event. As a result of such actions, CC Prynn has requested information from officers on relevant legislation and government guidance to clarify the position of 16/17 year olds who are placed in supported accommodation from residential homes by staff.

CC Prynn attended a Safeguarding Conference in Manchester and discussed with a lead member of the LGA opportunities for aiding the work of the CPB through possible workshops and consultancy.

Thanks were also expressed to all involved with the PROUD awards including the young people and the success it was on the evening.

### **CC Brindle**

CC Brindle attended the PROUD awards which were held on 4 March 2016 as Chairman of the County Council. She reported on what a fantastic evening it had been and the achievements of the young people who won awards were phenomenal. CC Brindle thanked all the young people who had attended the awards.

It was also noted that CC Brindle had attended a number of events organised by the sea and army cadets and encouraged the young people to look at joining these groups.

### **CC Gibson**

CC Gibson is Lead Member for Community Safety, and they are currently looking at the Hate Crime Strategy. Lancashire Police are taking this forward and working with partners. A copy of the strategy is attached. If anybody has any

comments on this, they can email CC Gibson direct at [julie.gibson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:julie.gibson@lancashire.gov.uk).

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

### **What LINX Have Been Doing**

LINX took the Board through everything they had been doing since the last meeting. Please see powerpoint attached.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Barnardos**

A [video](#) was shown which included some members of LINX which is marking Barnardos 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and invited everybody to a Summer Fayre on 11 June 2016. The invite is attached and the Board were asked to share this amongst colleagues.

### **CPB Performance Report**

Next, LINX gave feedback on the Performance Report which is attached. Questions that were raised on the powerpoint will be addressed when Diane Booth goes to visit LINX at their meeting.

The fixed term exclusion target of 70, was felt by the young people an unacceptable target and wanted this lowering.

**Action:** Tony Morrissey agreed to discuss this with Audrey Swann and endeavour to reduce to the target.

Catherine raised an issue around there currently being more perspective adopters than there were children. Georgine Lee stated that there were a number of older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities awaiting adoption and there is work being carried out with the Government Adoption Vision to address this. There are currently no Adoption Activity Days planned, however with the new Adoption Recruitment Strategy, the Adoption Service are looking at planning more Activity Days and also looking at Adopters Activity Days. This will be a joined up approach with Blackburn with Darwen and Cumbria and will do further work around this together. CC Prynne requested that Board be kept informed when these dates are planned.

### **Young Inspectors Report**

The Board noted the Young Inspectors report as attached and feedback from these visits, especially the revisits were that young people at the establishments welcomed the Young Inspectors back and that they were following up the recommendations to ensure they had been fulfilled. It was requested that for the next meeting a more detailed report be provided ie a case study.

**Action:** LINX agreed to bring a more detailed report to the next meeting.

Debbie Ross commented that she had attended a National Safeguarding Steering Group where examples of good practice were requested. Debbie informed them of the Young Inspectors work and offered to share with them the LINX model. Health colleagues have also appreciated the feedback received on health assessments.

Kirsty Clarke invited the Young Inspectors to inspect Lancashire's Children's Rights Society and Advocacy Service where Lancashire have children/young people placed. The Young Inspectors welcomed this invite.

### **Activity**

Two County Councillors became care leavers for this activity and put on blindfolds and were asked to make their way to the back of the room which was their road to finding supported accommodation. The rest of the Board stood in their way holding up obstacles as they tried to reach their destination. A sample of comments that care leavers had raised with regards getting supported accommodation were as follows:

- Lonely
- Isolated
- No pathway plan
- Not seeing social worker regularly enough
- Feeling too young to live independently
- Lack of information on college bursaries
- No finances in place
- Low paid apprenticeships
- Mental health concerns

The activity was to highlight what barriers care leavers faced around supported accommodation.

Cheryl Lovell commented that Fostering Solutions used this activity also in their initial foster carer training to highlight to them what issues Care Leavers face.

**Action:** to explore the above issues in the Care Leavers Task Group.

### **Care Leavers Strategy**

Mark has recently experienced a number of difficulties as a Care Leaver eg:

- finding out what he is entitled to
- issues with Leaving Care worker not having correct information on Staying Put Policy and then going on leave and no other contact given
- top-up not being paid from Lancashire County Council (LCC)
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) not knowing what a CLA was
- Income support issues

The Board recognised that this was totally unacceptable and wondered just how often this was happening. When Leaving Care Workers go on leave or off sick, there needs to be contingency plans in place to cover this. Work with Care Leavers needs to be happening months before they turn 18 and not on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Systems appear to be in place, but how robust are they?

**Action:** Tony Morrissey to speak with Mark outside of the meeting and follow the issues up.

**Action** With regards the training of Leaving Care Workers, Linda Clegg will address this and share some information on this in the next item.

The Board had recently worked with the DWP, however it appeared that this needed to be revisited.

CC Brindle agreed to contact the Housing Benefit Officer at Burnley Borough Council to find out how Care Leavers claimed housing benefit and would share this with the Board.

Kirsty Clarke stated that there had been a project piloted recently called Care to be Different run by their Advocacy Service where young people could contact them for support. Kirsty also commented that the issues that Mark had faced were common with lots of Care Leavers.

LINX were thanked for all their hard work.

## **6. Ofsted Recommendations**

### **Update from Children's Service Improvement Board**

Linda Clegg gave an update from the Children's Service Improvement Board which was attached.

The Improvement Board had met monthly since January 2016 and had an independent Chair. It was a multi-agency group which includes a Social Worker and young people and was responsible for providing support and challenge and overseeing progress.

There were two documents that the Improvement Board had adopted which were:

[The Practitioner's Guide](#)

Our Vision (as attached)

These documents were available to take away from this meeting.

Linda reported that from 9 May 2016 there would be specialist support given to Care Leavers and when this had been in place for a few months, would come

back to this meeting to give an update on how it was going. The specialist support would be a mixture of predominantly Personal Advisors and some Social Workers.

With regards the issues with LCS, and it providing real time data it was proving difficult to fix, however work continues on this but the Board were asked to note that it was not a quick fix. They were currently looking at seven areas and once they had been solved, they would move on to other areas.

CC Prynne asked where the CPB fits in with the scrutiny of these services and how it can link in with Post Inspection Improvement Board. Linda felt that the work the Board was undertaking around policies would be a useful piece of work to dovetail in.

Linda was thanked for her presentation.

Unfortunately, the presentation from Georgine Lee on Fostering and Adoption had to be deferred due to the meeting running over, and she agreed to come back to the next meeting to present her report.

The Action Plan was also not discussed.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was no urgent business received.

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

Thursday, 16 June 2016 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C').





**Corporate Parenting Board**

**16 June 2016**

## **PROUD CLA Celebration Event**



### **Background**

Proud 2016 is the third awards process (preceded by the events in 2015 and 2014) we have hosted to celebrate our children looked after.

### **The Planning Group**

As with previous events the awards process has been coordinated by a group of people who work with looked after children and young people including Barnardos Participation service, social workers, foster carers and elected members. The group also worked in partnership with LINX to organise the event.

The group tweaked the PROUD 'recipe' to make this year's process even better. This included renaming the categories into the following acrostic:

**P**ositive choices and achievements  
**R**esponding to the needs of others  
**O**utstanding service to the community  
**U**nique talent  
**D**anny Collins Inspiration award

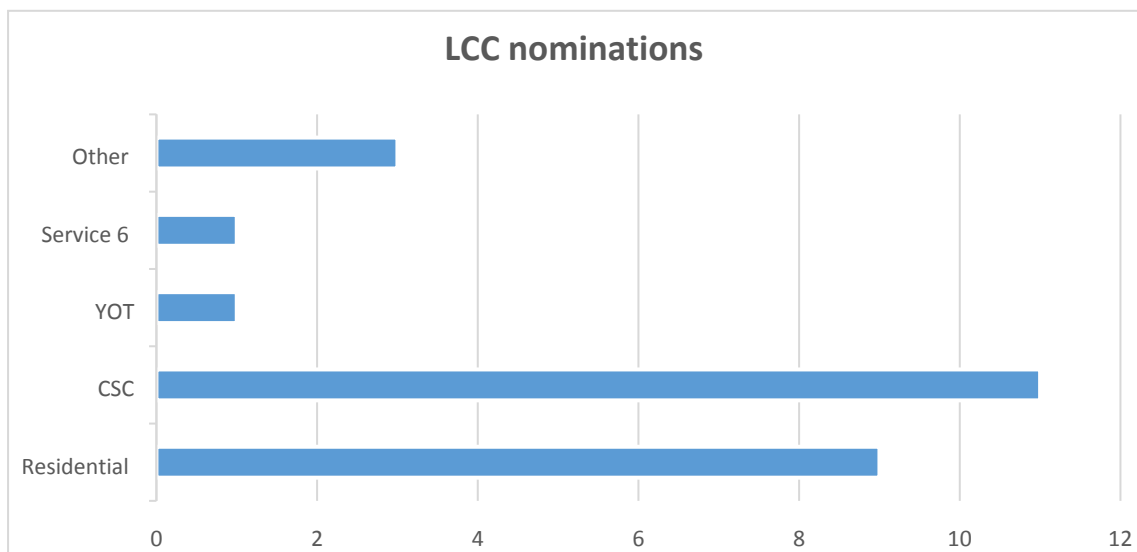
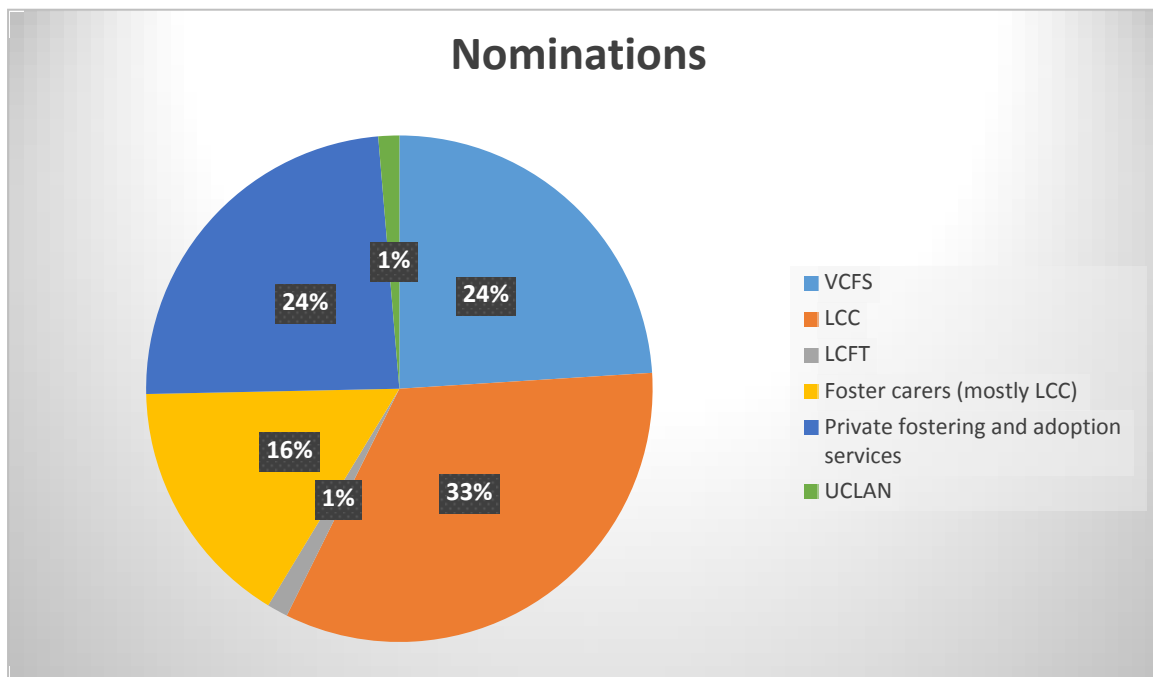
As with previous years we also got ourselves a celebrity to host the event, we planned a truly Oscars style evening and some of our inspirational children and young people elected to speak and award prizes.

### **Advertising and promoting**

We widely publicised the PROUD awards throughout November via the Communications Team including LCC social media and press releases. Internally it was promoted via internal communications and we utilised the TV screens in libraries, schools portal, the Children's Trust website and bulletins and the Youthzone website and facebook pages. We had also planned into our programme an extension to the deadline meaning we finally closed the nominations in early December 2015.

We received approximately 80 nominations which was disappointing as in previous years we had received between 115- 120 nominations (this is of course no reflection on the high calibre of those nominations). The reasons for this may include the ramifications of the Ofsted ruling and the transformation of various services and settings throughout Lancashire.

## Analysis of who nominated



## Judging

A group of professionals, foster carers and young people got together to judge the categories in January 2016. The challenge of reading, scoring and deciding on finalists and ultimately choosing winners is not for the faint hearted, it's a tough job! However, we were able to select 21 brilliant finalists and 11 amazing winners who were invited to the event on 4 March 2016 in Preston North End.

## **Special thanks**

Particular thanks goes to Jane and Shelly, two of Lancashire's foster carers, for their tireless pursuit of raffle prizes and also for some of the amazing entertainment on the evening (sadly the candyfloss machine triggered the local fire brigade to pay us a visit and condemn its' use but hey ho!).

Thanks also to Karen and Toyah for performing so beautifully at the event. The final thanks goes to LINX, our children in care council, as ever the pleasure is all ours. Many, many, thank yous.

