

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

## Agenda

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

*County Councillor Pryn*

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

**2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 8 September 2016** (Pages 1 - 8)

*County Councillor Pryn*

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

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

*County Councillor Pryn 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.

**4. Peer to Peer Mentoring (30 mins)**

*Tom Redfearn, Children's Society*

To receive feedback.

### What have our Young People been doing?

**5. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)** (Pages 9 - 20)  
*Young People, Barnardo's, Hannah Peake/Jane Hylton/Marcus Devaney (LCC)*

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

Performance Report

Young Inspectors Update

Rights and Entitlements Guide for Care Leavers

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

**6. Update on what Personal Adviser Hubs Do and the Role of a Personal Adviser (15 mins)**

*Jane Hylton, Children's Social Care, LCC*

To receive an update.

**7. Any Other Business**

*County Councillor Prynne*

To receive any other business.

**8. Meeting Schedule 2017**

(Pages 21 - 22)

*County Councillor Prynne*

To note the dates of the meetings for 2017.

**9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*County Councillor Prynne*

Thursday, 2 February 2017 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Duke of Lancaster Room – Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

## **Information Items**

**10. Update on Activity Day**

(Pages 23 - 26)

To note the report from the event which took place on Monday, 26 September 2016.

**11. LSCB Annual Report**

(Pages 27 - 30)

To note the LSCB Annual Report.

# Agenda Item 2

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 8th September, 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
Councillor Bernard Dawson	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Lynsey Evans	- representing Adoption - Fostering Forum
Kat	- LINX Representative
Sam R	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Sam W	- LINX Representative
Paige	- LINX Representative
Mary-Beth	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardos
Susan Towers	- Agency - Residential
Angela Epps	- Agency Fostering

**Other Attendees**

Kirsty Clarke	- Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Andy Smith	- Children's Social Services, LCC
Maria Lewis	- Youth Offending Team, LCC
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services, LCC
Superintendent Andrea Barrow	- Lancashire Constabulary

## **1. Introductions and Apologies**

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Lord and Beavers, Dr Nicola Bamford, Diane Booth, Tony Morrissey, Annette McNeil, Debbie Duffell, Mark Twiname, Mia Leyland and Audrey Swann.

## **2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 16 June 2016 and 4 August 2016**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

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

### **CC Prynne**

CC Prynne and CC Brown had carried out a Reg 22 visit recently. Following this, there had been some quite negative meetings with regards the use of CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Service) between Mental Health Officers and Senior Officers from LCC. There is a Pan Lancashire initiative to provide help for all mental health issues for young people.

There is a Care of the Most Vulnerable Workshop to be held on 27 September 2016. If any County Councillors wishes to attend, then let CC Prynne know. Key professionals across Lancashire will be attending. CC Prynne will be feeding in with regards to needing more therapies and support in residential settings, which is more than what CAMHS are offering.

Debbie Ross reported that Health are also expanding the number of therapies offered for vulnerable young people and that self-referrals are now accepted from young people.

CC Prynne queried an Activity Day that she had heard about, and was disappointed that the Board had not been informed about it. Following this it was requested that Sam Gorton source more information and let CC Prynne know the details.

**Action:** Sam Gorton to follow up further with Tony Morrissey/Georgine Lee.

Kate Baggaley confirmed that the Council Tax exemption letter is now finalised and ready to be sent to the District Councils.

## **CC Brown**

Reported that the Reg 22 visit he carried out with CC Prynne was very interesting and that he was continuing to work on issues around mental health.

## **CC Brindle**

Reported back with regards the follow up on Housing with Burnley Borough Council. There was no specific training given on dealing with care leavers, it was on the job training. CC Brindle felt that this was not satisfactory and also that there was no specific leaflet or guidance on leaving care for young people. This was a big gap that needs looking at.

**Action:** Officers are producing a leaving care pack which will be presented to the Board.

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

### **In Care out of Trouble Report**

LINX presented the attached PowerPoint which outlined their response to the recommendations at Appendix One in the Report as requested by the CPB at the meeting on 16 June 2016. Following on from the slide which shows what LINX wanted, their request was that a Police Representative be on the Board. It was noted that there was a Co-opted Member Police role in the Terms of Reference, however, in the past when this had been discussed the young people requested that they did not feel comfortable with a Police presence, so the Board welcomed that they would now like Police representation at the meetings in future.

**Action:** Sam Gorton to liaise with Superintendent Andrea Barrow to find a Police Representative to attend future meetings.

LINX then led with an activity (attached), where the Board worked in groups and were presented with scenarios, and then each scenario was added to which changed the opinions of the outcomes and what led to them. The groups were asked how they would deal with the different issues (as attached). The scenarios were based on experiences young people had had in care in Lancashire. Kate reported that young people had stated they had not experienced any discriminations from the Police because they were in care and that they reported positive experiences when dealing with the Police. The Board and Superintendent Andrea Barrow welcomed the positive comments made by the young people.

### **What LINX have been doing**

LINX gave a detailed account of what they had been doing since 4 August 2016. Details can be found on the Powerpoint attached.

Kate reported that LINX had been working really hard with the Fostering Service and what they had been doing was detailed in the Bingo game that the Board played and is attached.

### **Feedback on CPB Report**

Young people raised a number of concerns with regards the Performance Report, and it was requested that Sam contact Chris Greenwood who provides the report to address the issues raised.

**Action:** Sam to send the Performance Report to Chris Greenwood to address the concerns raised by LINX and for Chris to feedback to LINX.

Andy Smith, Children's Social Care addressed the query around why the Contact Centre had received more contacts though less referrals had been made. He stated contacts and referrals are the same, they are both dealt with in the same way. There are around 30,000+ contacts a year with around 1000 going through to Social Workers. Around 3000 a month should be dealt with at the early help stage which is dealt with by MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub).

Andy also gave some feedback from the recent Ofsted Monitoring visit. Six cases had been sampled from Section 47 and Care Leavers and the findings were that significant progress was being made and the processes that are in place are on the right track, however there is still room for improvement, but no children have been left at risk.

The children missing data is inconsistent and the reason behind this is that the Police data does not match with the Children's Social Care data.

The Chair commented that it was really pleasing that the KS4 results had increased from the previous year.

Five looked after young people had been placed in either young offender institutions or secure units. Maria Lewis agreed to follow this up and find out further information.

**Action:** Maria Lewis to follow this up and report back to CC Pryn.

### **ITV Fixers – Leaflet**

Brad and Sam had been involved with creating a leaflet for care leavers called Out of Care and Going it Alone. The leaflet can be found [here](#).

The young people were thanked for their detailed reports and continuing hard work.

## 5. In Care Out of Trouble Report (30 mins)

Superintendent Andrea Barrow, Lancashire Constabulary and Robert Ruston, Victims Commissioning and Partnerships Manager, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) were welcomed to the meeting.

Robert spoke about the role of the OPCC and explained that they were the body that oversees the Police. Currently they are focussing on restorative justice and developing it in homes and are very keen to look at and support it in residential units across Lancashire.

Maria Lewis, Youth Offending Team, LCC informed the Board that the YOT Team have restorative justice work planned too, so the team will contact Robert and make the links.

**Action:** Maria Lewis to contact Robert Ruston about collaborative work around restorative justice.

Superintendent Andrea Barrow then gave a PowerPoint presentation (as attached) as to what Lancashire Constabulary is doing around Early Action and Public Service Lancashire Development.

Early Action – Prevention is the Forces way of delivering Neighbourhood policing in the future.

Looking at deep problem solving and asking the question WHY-

Why the individual has escalated to crisis?

Why have previous cries for help not lead to a sustainable solution?

Why should we as Police be interested in incidents and problems that are not crime related?

This is why Early Action is so important – 48% classed as Early Action when the problem has reached crisis and the police are called. Case studies show that many of the incidents could have been prevented with Early Action. Only 19% of incidents are crime related demand on Police.

Lancashire Police Force are leading the way in working in conjunction with other services and acting as leads for individuals and then working with the family and identifying what help is needed, so the individual and family are not seeing lots of different people over the same issues.

Further funding has been applied for to help put interventions in place.

Police do not complete Common Assessment Frameworks (CAF's) as a matter of course, but they do act as Lead Professionals for hundreds of others. As part of the Integrated Team in Preston they are looking at Police instigating a CAF, looking at a joint case management system and looking at using Liquid Logic. A CAF would be built into that and used as an assessment tool.

Superintendent Barrow also informed the Board that they are doing preventative work with other agencies around mental health issues. The Board agreed that they would like to be a part of this initiative going forward. Superintendent Barrow welcomed input on identifying vulnerable people on this from CPB and foster carers would also be a good source too.

**Action:** The Board were asked to let Sam Gorton know if anybody would like to be involved and that Sam would pass details on to Superintendent Barrow.

It was noted that joined up working from Service 6, LCC would be very useful especially in helping people who have been released from prison.

**Action:** Sam to pass contact details of Service 6 to Superintendent Andrea Barrow.

Robert Ruston then informed the Board that the OPCC are incredibly supportive around early intervention work and this is detailed in Lancashire's Police and Crime Plan [Report](#) and that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) sees early action as a main priority.

In 2013 a Triage Programme was funded by the OPCC which was committed to reducing the number of young people entering into the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

A key piece of work is Positive Together which is community based activities which target the most vulnerable and is set up to prevent young people from entering the CJS. They work with the Community for six months with a view to them taking it forward after that.

With regards to restorative justice work is being carried out with Schools and the Youth Offending Team to look at developing this further.

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Campaign has been funded by the OPCC and is keen to keep this high profile and continue to raise awareness around it. A conference will be held in CSE week and also another event is planned for parents/carers with children with learning difficulties around grooming.

Another key piece of work is around all support services for victims of crime. A recent development is that there is now a service specifically for young people and this is called NEST Lancashire and is focusing on CSE and Bullying during the autumn.

The PCC is somebody who is elected by the public and has a key role and sets the budget for the Police from the funding given from Central Government and Council Tax from the County. The PCC is the only person who can appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable and holds the Police to account after setting out key things for them to do and ensures they are carrying them out.



CC Prynne thanked Superintendent Barrow and Robert Ruston on behalf of the Board for their attendance and informative presentations.

## **6. IRO Annual Report (15 mins)**

Andy Smith, Children's Social Care presented the IRO Annual Report. Key facts from the report were presented in the Powerpoint attached.

Following the Ofsted Inspection the number of IROs was increased from 30 FTE to 45 FTE. Caseloads were extremely high (around 130) and the focus has been to reduce caseloads which has happened. The current number as of today of children looked after is 1,754 which has increased since March 2016 where the number was 1,674.

Children with child protection plans was also increasing and from March 2016 there were 1,443 children to the number today which is 1,746.

As can be seen, figures are increasing, however, with the increase in staff, this has enabled IRO's to manage and provide good practice. Problem resolution within the service was identified as a positive way for IRO challenge to improve outcomes.

The Board asked if there could be some form of a problem resolution specifically for Care Leavers so they are able to escalate and resolve any of their concerns and Andy agreed to take this forward.

**Action:** Andy Smith to take forward the recommendation of a problem resolution service for Care Leavers and report back to the Board on this recommendation.

Kirsty Clarke commented that the Advocacy Service provided by Children's Rights was now available up to the age of 21 years old, and that this service had a good relationship with IROs.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to report.

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

Thursday, 1 December 2016 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Henry Bollinbroke Room – Cabinet Room 'D', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

## **9. Care Leavers Guide - An Update Report**

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email [hannah.peake@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.peake@lancashire.gov.uk).

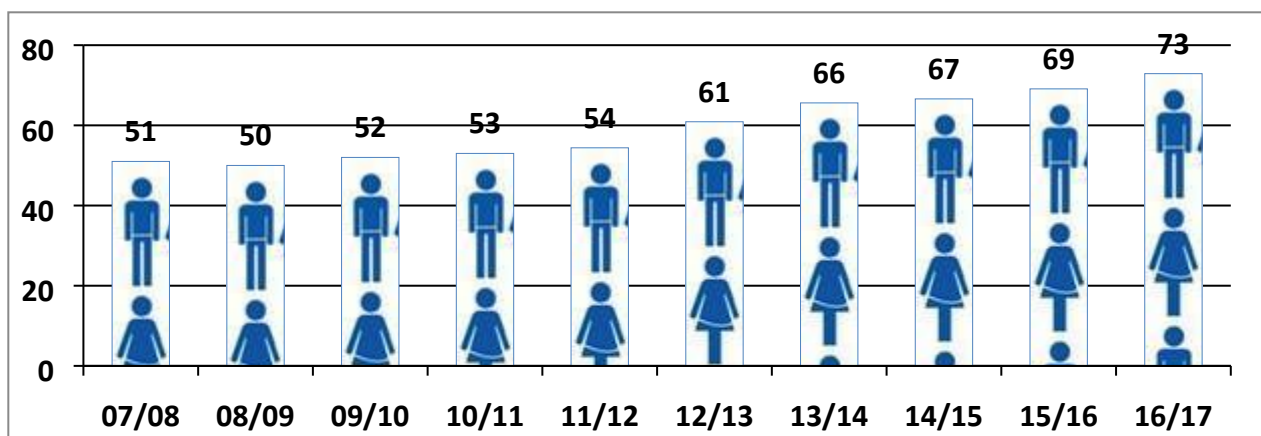


## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, DECEMBER 2016

### ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of October 2016, there were **1,791** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **72.9** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after further increased in October and is higher than 12 months ago (October 15 - 1540)
- 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 (62 out of 10,000).
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (82 out of 10,000).



#### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after further increased in October after a brief reduction in April. There have been big increases in the number of looked after children over the last two years. The rate further increased in 2015/16 to 69 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 and 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.



	Previous Performance					Current Performance
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	2016/17 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1284	1525	750	1575	1788	1830
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1175	1370	1679	868	958	876
Initial Assessments	9891	11288	11865	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5019	5901	5724	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	--	1089	1253	1278

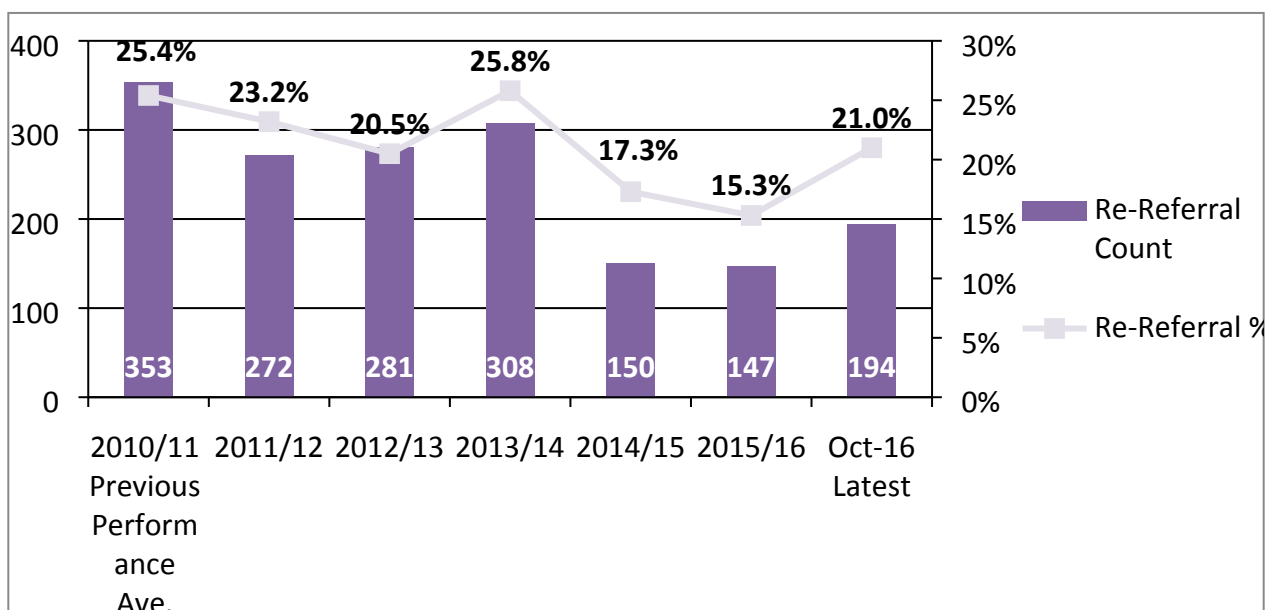
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first full year shows an average of 1089 assessments were started per month. The second full year shows a 15% rise, with an average of 1253 assessments starting per month.
- ❖ Latest average assessments started per month (1278) are currently higher than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1253).
- ❖ Young people asked if it is harder to get a young person referred into Children's Social Care, given the increase in contacts, but the reduction in referrals. Referrals are deemed to require CSC involvement, and reductions could be explained by the appropriate use of Early Intervention. This means that the appropriate level of support is now being utilised, more often, with those children that require CSC intervention still able to access CSC support if that is required.

### 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 2015/16 decreased to **less than 16** 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 was **21%** in October 2016 a reduction from a recent high of **22.3%** in September 2016.
- ❖ Prior to the jump in September, re-referral rates had remained below **20%** for 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 October 2016 shows that under **5** out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target.
- This is less than 15/16 performance of **6.7%** but 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?
2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	October 16		
9.6%	6.8%	6.7%	4.9%	9.5%	😊
↗	↘	↘	↘	✓	

**COMMENTS:**

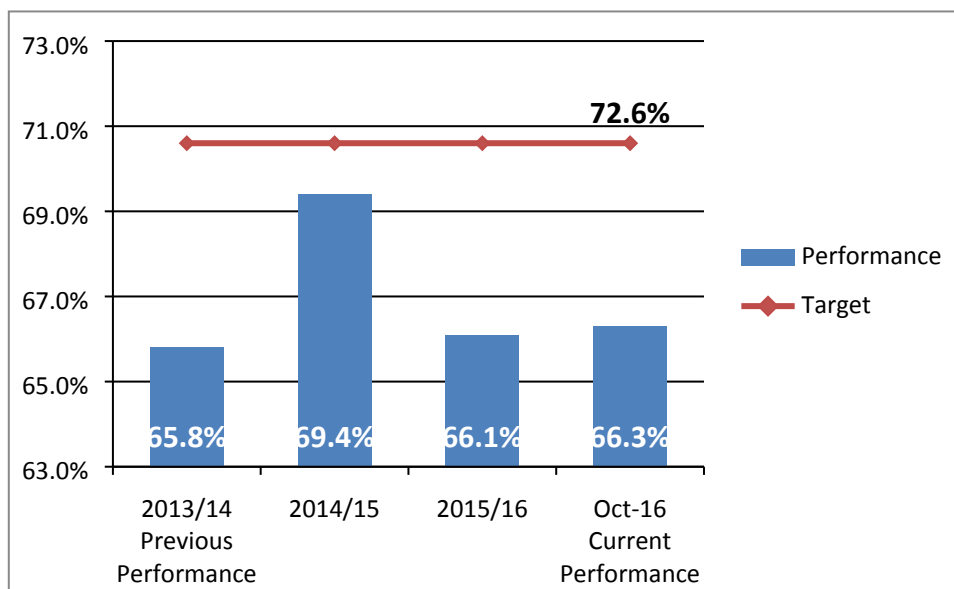
- ❖ Performance has improved in October, with less than 5 out of 100 children looked after moving at least twice over the past year.

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good placement stability work through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability.
- ❖ 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.
- October 2016 information shows that **66** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance remains similar to 2015/16 performance (**66** out of 100).



### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes.
- ❖ This has historically resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after.
- ❖ Performance reduced in 2015/16, down to 66.1% of CLA.
- ❖ Current performance has improved slightly, with 66.3% of CLA having been in placement for over two years.

### 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. The Police will also now be able to change missing to absent on the young person's record.

Lancashire County Council worked with multiple agencies including Lancashire Police, to monitor the levels of children missing from care and the yearly breakdowns below are based on that information. However, as of 2016, Lancashire County Council are now solely using LCS to report missing figures and are no longer checking police lists, hence the breakdowns will not be provided for every category going forwards.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Q1 16/17	Q2 16/17
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361	166	90	85
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365	145	63	63
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764	-	-	-
Other Children Missing	1338	742	-	-	-
<b>Children Missing within Lancashire boundaries</b>	<b>2456</b>	<b>2222</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>422</b>

#### COMMENT:

- ❖ Over the whole year, **22** out of 100 children looked after were reported missing in 2014/15, slightly less than the **24** out of 100 children in 13/14.
- ❖ The numbers represent the number of unique 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 2014/15 has been published and performance increased to 14% from 8% the previous year.
- CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people of whom almost **6** out of 10 achieve 5 GCSEs at A\*-C including English and maths.

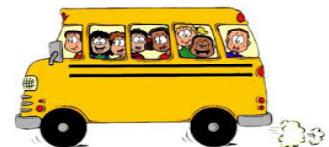
	Previous Performance			Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	11/12	12/13	13/14	2014/15		
Lancs	12.8%	12.9%	8%	14%	18.0%	😊
	↗	↔	↘	↗	✘	
England	14.9%	15.5%	12%	13.8%	Higher	☹

## COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after increased in 2014/15 with **14** out of **100** CLA achieving 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.
- ❖ Across England in 2014/15, just under **14** per 100 children looked after achieved 5 A\*-C inc. English & Maths, slightly less than Lancashire's **14** 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	Above target?
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15		
Primary	96.3%	96.2%	97%	97.2%	97%	96.0%	
							
Secondary	92.5%	94.3%	92%	95%	92.7%	96.0%	
							

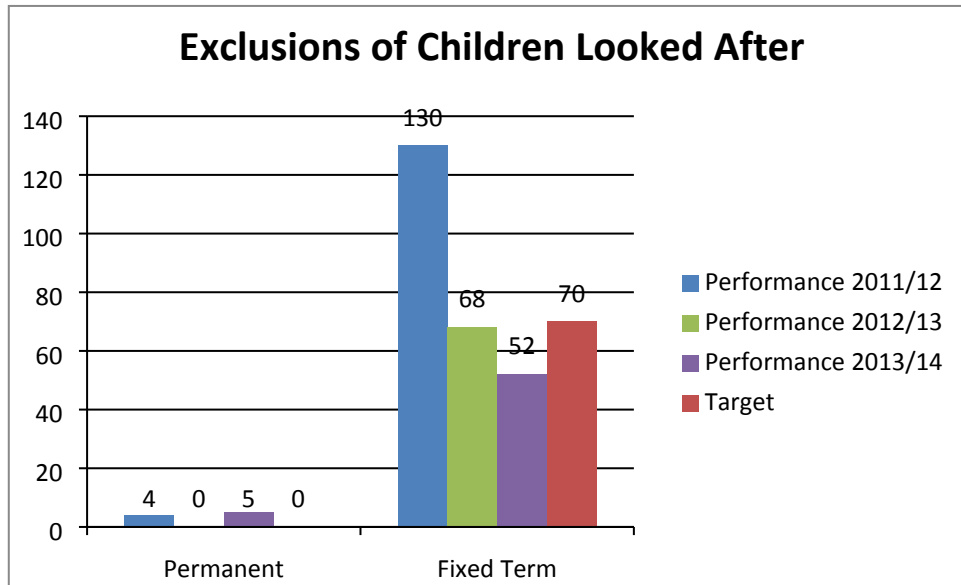
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.



### 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, **5** as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.
- In Q4 14/15, just under 3 out of **100** children looked after were involved with the youth offending teams, whilst just over **1** out of **1000** children and young people were involved with youth offending teams.
- Based on these figures, children looked after are twenty five 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

- **88** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (October 2016)
- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year (2015/16 - **92**)
- **74** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (October 2016)
- This has increased recently after reaching a new year low in July 2016 of **66.7%**.

### 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 and dental assessments in partnership with health colleagues.
- ❖ 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.

## ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

### ADOPTION ORDERS

- **323** children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased to **119** children looked after being adopted in **15/16**, similar to **14/15** performance of **121**, but much higher than in previous years.
- In the second quarter of 2016/17, **11** adoption orders were granted.



### 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:

- **149** looked after children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 15/16, up from **120** in 14/15.
- **10** looked after children were given a permanent home under residence order during 2015/16, a slight decrease on performance last year of **16**.
- In the first quarter of 2016/17, **30** SGOs were granted with a further **5** residence orders.

### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Overall more children looked after than ever are being provided with a permanent home under adoption, special guardianship order or residence orders; **278** in 2015/16 which represents considerable success and further improvement on the previous record of **257** in 2014/15.

## 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":



- As at the end of October 2016, out of 100 care leavers, **88** were considered to be in suitable accommodation

### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance as at the end of Q4 15/16 was **86.8%**
- ❖ 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:

- October 2016 data suggests **49%** of Care Leavers were in education, training or employment.
- Nationally **88** out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (March 2016)



### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Latest performance suggests that almost half of care leavers are in education, training or employment.
- ❖ 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.
- In 2013/14 there were 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students.
- In 2014/15 there were 40 care leavers studying at university, including 10 first year students.
- In 2015/16 there were 44 care leavers studying at university, including 15 first year students. Furthermore, 9 graduated in 2016. However, 5 also dropped out of university.
- In 2016/17, there were 37 care leavers studying at university, including 7 first year students. Data for 2016/17 has only recently been returned, so may be subject to change.



### COMMENTS:

- ❖ There is a good level of Care Leavers at University in each of the last five years showing that Leaving Care support is there for potential students.

- ❖ Young people feel that these figures show good progress, but there should be many more care leavers going to university.
- ❖ 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 2016/17 is provisional and is subject to change.



## SCHEDULE OF CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD MEETINGS 2017

The table below lists the dates and venues of meetings for 2017.

If you have any queries regarding the Corporate Parenting Board, please contact Sam Gorton, Clerk to the Corporate Parenting Board either by telephone (01772) 532471 or e-mail [sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk)

Date of Corporate Parenting Board Meeting	Time and Venue
Thursday, 2 February 2017	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 20 April 2017	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 15 June 2017	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 27 July 2017 - Young People's Meeting	1.30pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 7 September 2017	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 7 December 2017	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')





**Report for Corporate Parenting Board regarding activity day held on  
26 September 2016**

**Purpose of the report and Summary**

On the 26 September 2016 the Family Finders from Lancashire County Council Children Awaiting Adoption Team attended a regional event, which was held at Preston North End. The event was arranged and facilitated by RAMS (Regional Adoption Managers). The event was specifically aimed at prospective adoptive families who had waited longer than 6 months to be matched.

The evening consisted of presentations from guest speakers, one of which was an adoptive parent. The presentations focussed on the reasons why the landscape of adoption had changed and why there were fewer young children awaiting adoption. The information given by the adoptive parent was very useful, as it enabled prospective adopters to consider how they may be able to become less restrictive in their matching consideration and becoming open to consider factors they previously thought they could not consider. The speaker gave information of her own experience of only wanting a girl, but after being asked to consider a boy, which she did and it had turned out to be a perfect match.

**Children**

A number of children were profiled at this event. In comparison to other agencies Lancashire profiled more "harder to place" children although the event was not well attended by other agencies. Lancashire profiled 8 of our "harder to place" children, the children are as follows:-

1. A is a 3 year old boy of mixed heritage who was placed with foster carers once discharged from hospital following his birth. Care Proceedings concluded on 24 October 2014 with the making of a Full Care Order and a Placement Order. Risk issues relating to A's birth parents include substance misuse by both parents, chaotic lifestyle choices, domestic violence, learning disabilities and mental health issues relating to the mother and lack of engagement by parents. Family Finding commenced in November 2014 and has continued to date without success. During this period A has received a diagnosis of autism which has significantly reduced the pool of potential adopters. Intensive family finding is ongoing but discussions will be held during next CLA Review to see if we should consider a change of care plan to long term fostering.
2. B is a 1 year and 8 months old girl of dual heritage (White British/unknown Asian). B has a level of uncertainty about her development, and there has been a suggestion that this may be linked to Foetal Alcohol Syndrome although paediatric advice is that she is currently too young to be diagnosed. The paediatrician has, however made a referral for an assessment to consider whether B has ADHD. B's mother has had three older children removed from her care, the youngest of whom has been adopted. The mother's main issues

are:- drug use, chaotic lifestyle, prostitution, and inability to prioritise a child's needs. B was placed with her current foster carers after her discharge from hospital. B has been subject to a Placement Order for 16 months and to date family finding has proved unsuccessful. During this time one family had reached the stage where the linking documents had been submitted for adoption panel, unfortunately the prospective adoptive mother revealed she was three months pregnant and the linking was withdrawn. Another in-house family were identified as a potential match with information being shared, however after lengthy discussions with the family the family chose not to progress as they felt B could struggle living in their predominantly white area. Out of County funding has now been agreed and there have been a number of enquiries; to date two families have had B's information shared but both chose not to progress due to developmental uncertainty. Currently a recently approved in-house are being approached.

3. C is a 15 month old happy and smiley little boy with big blue eyes and blonde hair. C was born prematurely at 27 weeks and it was noted at birth that he had multiple congenital abnormalities. C's right leg is absent from below the knee and his left foot is under developed with some deformity to the leg. He has fused fingers to both the left and right hands and low set ears. C's head is not perfectly shaped however is not noticeably different. He was also born with a cleft lip and palate, although reconstructive surgery has already been carried out to correct this. A chromosome report has also showed a particular abnormality which can be associated with muscular dystrophy, however, this will not become known until C is a little older. Out of county funding was allocated for C early on in the family finding process due to the extent of his additional needs. He is currently in foster care and is awaiting adoption. Despite C's health needs he continues to develop well. He is able to grasp with his hands and to roll on the floor, getting himself around without much difficulty. He is currently unable to sit up unaided. C has settled well into his current foster placement and is reported to be a happy and content baby with a liking for physical affection from his carers.
4. D is a three year old boy who became subject to a Placement Order on 5 December 2013. D has a diagnosis of global developmental delay. D has only just started to walk unaided and has limited speech. Those who know D well are able to understand what he is saying. He doesn't currently exhibit any emotional or behavioural difficulties. D has recently started at nursery where he has been reported to make considerable progress. It is believed that with stimulation and interaction D will develop and gain some independence. D is settled within his foster placement where he has been placed since leaving the hospital. To date, family finding has been unsuccessful notwithstanding extensive searches and promotion of D's profile at various adoption events. There have been some prospective adopter families that have shown an interest in D, however have they have not proceeded, as they were worried that if he did not continue to make progress they would be unable to meet his long term needs.
5. E is a 3 year old little girl of white British and black French heritage. E is considered as 'harder to place' as at a recent health assessment it was identified that there was an increased likelihood that E could develop a neurodevelopmental disorder such as ADHD or Autism. She is quite hyperactive

and has trouble getting to sleep and wakes frequently during the night, she has medication to aid her sleep. E's mother did drink alcohol during pregnancy, so Foetal Alcohol Syndrome has also not been ruled out. A Placement Order was granted in June 2015. Although searches for adopter have found potential matches for E, so far these have not progressed to adoption linking stage due as stated are the uncertainty associated with her development and additional needs.

6. F is a 5 year little boy who has a diagnosis of Autism. He was removed from the care of his birth parents to drug use and neglect. All family members ruled out as potential long-term carers within care proceedings and as such his plan became one of adoption. F was accommodated at the age of 2 years and has had several placement moves. Most of these due to his significant needs and behaviour and the families being unable to care for him in the longer term. He is very delayed with regards to his development. He is in receipt of DLA and has an EHC Plan. He currently attends a special needs school although there are times that they find F difficult to manage. F is a complex health needs and requires a high level of support.

7&8 G&H are 2 and 3 year old little boys with no significant needs. The reason G and H are considered "hard to place" is due to their gender, their ethnicity and the fact they are a sibling group. The children are from a background of Romani Gypsy of Czech Republic heritage. The boys suffered chronic neglect whilst in the care of their birth parents. They witnessed significant domestic violence and G was injured, aged 11 months, in one incident. The home conditions were extremely poor. The children were removed from the care of their parents having been taken into police protection in August 2015 and have remained in the same foster placement. A Placement Order was granted in April 2016.

## **Adopters**

The event was attended by adopters from the following agencies - WISH, Salford, Manchester, Bolton and Lancashire, in total approximately 50 prospective adopters attended. Three prospective adopters from Lancashire attended.

## **Outcomes**

During the evening the Family Finder from Lancashire who attended had many discussions with the adopters who attended the event. The families who attended found it useful to meet with our staff and actually see profile of children who are waiting.

From the event, discussions were held with the family finder with regard to three of our children; however, unfortunately none of these discussions led to further exploration or matches.

Georgine Lee  
Senior Manager, Fostering, Adoption and Scayt+ Service  
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## **Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16**



### **Purpose of the report and Summary**

To present the [2015-16 annual report](#) of the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) which shares the work that the LSCB and its partners have done over the last year.

### **Background**

The LSCB has a statutory responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of work undertaken by agencies to safeguard children in Lancashire. This Annual Report, reflects on the work undertaken in this regard during 2015-16, and provides information about services and their effectiveness. A summary has been created and agreed by young people and is attached at appendix A.

The Board is required to have an Independent Chair and has the responsibility to promote and safeguard the welfare and interest of children, young people and their families. The Chair of the Board is accountable to the Council's Chief Executive who is, in turn, responsible for ensuring its effectiveness.

Protocols are in place which establish the relationship between the LSCB, the Children and Young People's Trust Board and the Health and Well-being Board and to strengthen this link the Independent Chair of the LSCB has recently joined the Health and Well-being Board. The Director of Children's Services is a statutory member of the LSCB along with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools who is a 'participating observer' on the Board.

## **Key Information and Questions for Board Members**

It is clear that a great deal of work to safeguard children has taken place during the last twelve months. However, there are several areas that the LSCB remains concerned about:

- Ensuring services reach an appropriately high standard on a timely basis;
- Ensuring equality of services given the complexity and diversity of the administrative area especially in relation to deprivation rates;
- Poor health outcomes, especially infant and child death rates, alcohol and substance use and self-harm;
- Increasing numbers of Children Looked After from other local authorities (around 1000) and issues around levels of need and incidents of missing from home;
- Significant increases in children subject to Child Protection Plans;
- Increasing number of Child Sexual Exploitation referrals but no increase in recorded crime;
- Continuing development of effective early intervention and preventative.

In addition, the LSCB is particularly concerned about the quality and availability of appropriate Child and Adolescent Mental Health where the resource allocation is too low and progress towards improved services too slow. The level of concern regarding such issues resulted in the LSCB reporting its concerns to the Health and Well-being Board who responded by requiring a comprehensive review with the intention re-commissioning services from April 2016. While some additional services have been commissioned the outcome of the review in terms of service re-design is yet to be completed and has now been rolled into a broader transformation agenda with timescales running up to the end of 2020. The LSCB has expressed its serious concerns and is now receiving regular update report at its meetings.

The LSCB shares the concerns set out in the recent Ofsted inspection report and is working as part of the Improvement Board set up to ensure an effective response and has seen evidence of plans to restructure services, reduce caseloads of social workers and improve quality assurance. These things will take time to show an impact and at the end of 2015-16 it was not possible to identify significant improvement in practice.

The LSCB will continue to work with partner agencies to address all relevant concerns identified in the Annual Report.

### **Decisions required**

- Consider the content of the Annual Report and identify any areas they may wish to comment on and any action they may wish to take.

*Jane Booth: Independent Chair, Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board*

*Date of report production: 16 November 2016.*

# Lancashire safeguarding children board annual report summary

Lancashire has a child population of almost a quarter of a million (274,733)

## **The wellbeing of children in Lancashire**

One of the main concerns of the LSCB are the hospital admissions for alcohol and substance misuse and also for mental health and self harm, although information collected shows improvement Lancashire compares badly to the national average.

## **Child protection**

The rate of child protection plans has increased significantly from 2014/2015 and is now above the national average, child protection plans that last got longer than 2 years or more has also increased from 2014/2015.

## **Children looked after**

Data collected shows there has been an 18% decrease in the number of children becoming looked after and a 33% decrease in the number ceasing to be looked after, this means although fewer children are becoming looked after even fewer are being discharged from services.

## **Children missing from home, care or education**

The data collected shows a reduction on repeat incidents in missing from home from residential care homes, this could be a reflection of the positive responses from police on building relationships with the residential homes and their residents

## **Children placed in Lancashire from other areas**

There are around 1,000 children living in Lancashire from other local authorities

## **Children whose parents are in prison**

Work will be undertaken in 2016/2017 to ensure that these children are identified and their families are supported

## **Children in custody**

Action taken by the authorities resulted in children no longer being sent to Hindley and are now mostly sent to Wetherby

## **Views of children and young people**

The LSCB has developed strong arrangements for involving children and young people in various aspects of its work

## **Troubled families**

The long term ambition of the programme is to build resilience within families and therefore reduce the dependency on services, and to ensure that families are supported to achieve the best possible outcomes

