

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 Prynne 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 Prynne

CC Prynne 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 Prynne 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 Prynne invited Elected Members of the Board to be on the Task and Finish Group.

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

At Full Council on 25 February 2016, CC Prynne 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 Prynne 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 Prynne 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.

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.

150th Anniversary of Barnardos

A [video](#) was shown which included some members of LINX which is marking Barnardos 150th 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 18th 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').

Promoting the Education of Children Looked After in Lancashire



Lancashire Virtual School for CLA

Do looked after children do well at school?

How is success measured?

The Educational Progress of Looked After Children In England: Research 2015

PUPIL CROUP-Year 11 2013	NUMBER OF PUPILS	AVE NUMBER OF GCSE 'POINTS' (6=1 GRADE)
NOT looked after or Children in Need	622,970	340.59
Children in Need	13,599	185.14
CLA- in care for less than 12 months	1,387	149.52
CLA: in care for more than 12 months	4,849	202.41

Positive messages.

- **Looked after children do better than children in need- so being in care helps those children do better in school.**
- **Children in care for longer do better in GCSE's than those who are in care for a short time.**
- **Many young people in care improve educationally while in care.**

What can hold back looked after children?

- **Moving home placements- each change = nearly 3 points less at GCSE.**
- **Moving schools- if in KS4= 34 less points at GCSE**
- **Absence- every 10% absence= 25 points less at GCSE .**
- **Fixed term exclusions: 12 days of exclusions= up to a grade lost at GCSE.**
- **Not being in a good mainstream school.**

What makes a positive difference?

- **Stable home and school placement.**
- **Carers who see education as very important.**
- **Having the same social worker long term.**
- **Good, understanding teachers.**
- **Additional, individual support- earlier the better.**
- **High expectations.**
- **Adults and young people communicating and working together.**

How are we doing in Lancashire?

How can we do better?

2014-15 Attainment Key Stage 1

	Lancashire 2014 CLA pupils	Lancashire 2015 CLA pupils	Lancashire all pupils	England 2015 CLA pupils
Reading level 2 or above	67%	79% Increase of 12%	90%	71%
Writing level 2 or above	56%	71% Increase of 15%	87%	63%
Mathematics level 2 or above	73%	83% Increase of 10%	93%	78%

Key Stage 2

	Lancashire 2014 CLA pupils	Lancashire 2015 CLA pupils	Lancashire all pupils	England 2014 CLA pupils
Reading	65%	74% Increase of 9%	90%	71%
Writing	57%	65% Increase of 8%	87%	61%
Mathematics	61%	65% Increase of 4%	88%	64%
Reading , writing and mathematics combined L4+	43%	53% Increase of 10%	81%	52%

Key Stage 4

	Lancashire 2014 CLA pupils(80)	Lancashire 2015 CLA pupils(117)	Lancashire all pupils	England 2015 CLA pupils
5 GCSE A*-C	16.5%	18.4% Increase of 1.9%	67.4%	18.3%
5 GCSE A*-C Incl. Eng/Maths	8.2%	14.0% Increase of 5.8%	58.3%	13.8%
C + in Eng/Maths- both.	8.9%	14.9% Increase of 6%	NA	15.9%

Progress of Primary looked after children 2014-15

	R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Proportion of CLA pupils whose progress is satisfactory or better	85%	83%	82%	92%	83%	75.5%	86%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose attendance is satisfactory or better	98.5%	98%	100%	98%	98%	97%	98%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose wellbeing is judged to be satisfactory or better	96.5%	92.5%	96%	96%	98%	95%	93%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose behaviour is satisfactory or better	92%	94.5%	90%	96%	98%	97%	93%
Proportion of CLA pupils who are not at risk of perm. Exclusion	100%	98%	100%	96%	100%	100%	98%

Progress of secondary looked after students - 2014-15

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Proportion of CLA pupils whose progress is satisfactory or better	88.5%	88.5%	78%	81%	74%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose attendance is satisfactory or better	98%	83.5%	83.5%	85%	83.7%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose wellbeing is judged to be satisfactory or better	92%	88.5%	81.3%	78.5%	82%
Proportion of CLA pupils whose behaviour is satisfactory or better	92%	88.5%	86%	76.5%	78%
Proportion of CLA pupils who are not at risk of perm. Exclusion	90%	96%	91.5%	86%	93.4%

Identify strengths and needs.

- Improve education planning for looked after children- Personal Education Plans and Education Provision Map.
- Continue to track progress for every looked after child.
- Know who is having difficulties and act quickly.
- Make sure pupil premium grant is used well and that it has made a positive difference.

Individual support.

- Good teaching in a positive environment.
- 121 tuition.
- Assessments.
- On line learning packages.
- KS1 and 2 Home Reading programme.
- Emotional support.
- Information, Advice and Guidance.
- Out of school leaning activities.

Support at transition Points.

- Early Years provision.
- Starting school.
- Moving from primary to secondary school.
- Decisions for KS4 courses.
- Future after school.

Working with- and listening to- other key people.

- Children and Young People: increase involvement in planning and reviews, liaise with pupils forums, events i.e. KS4 Conference.
- Schools : training, support, information, involve school advisors.
- Social workers: training, communication, support.
- Carers: information, support, training.
- Establishing Virtual School governors.

Learning from others

- North West group of Virtual Schools.
- National Association for Virtual School Head Teachers.
- National Virtual School Conference.
- DFE project on impact of role of Virtual School and impact of Pupil Premium Grant.
- Ofsted reports.
- Research.

A story of potential not failure

Essential ingredients:

Stability: school, home, social worker.

Good school and good teaching.

Working together Individual support.

High expectations. Determination.

Evidence shows most young people in care do better educationally because they are in care.

The Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England: Linking Care and Educational Data

Research Team: Professor Judy Sebba, Professor David Berridge, Professor Steve Strand, Professor Sally Thomas, Dr Nikki Luke, Dr John Fletcher, Dr Karen Bell, Professor Ian Sinclair, Aoife O'Higgins

This research project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, was jointly undertaken by the University of Bristol and the Rees Centre, Department of Education, University of Oxford.

It is the first major study in England to explore the relationship between educational outcomes, young people's care histories and individual characteristics. It links the National Pupil Database and the Children Looked After Database for the cohort who were eligible to take GCSEs in 2013.

The main analysis concentrated on the progress at secondary school (Key Stages 2-4) of young people who had been in care for over a year at the end of Key Stage 4. Detailed statistical analysis was complemented by interviews with 26 young people in six local authorities and with adults significant in their educational careers, including foster carers, teachers, social workers and Virtual School headteachers.

Key Findings

What are the key factors contributing to the low educational outcomes of young people in care in secondary schools in England? The analysis reveals that controlling for all factors, the following contribute to the educational progress of young people in care:

- **Time in care.** Young people who have been in longer-term care do better than those 'in need' but not in care, and better than those who have only been in short term care – so it appears that care may protect them educationally.
- **Placement changes.** Each additional change of care placement after age 11 is associated with one-third of a grade less at GCSE.
- **School changes.** Young people in care who changed school in Years 10 or 11 scored over five grades less than those who did not.
- **School absence.** For every 5% of possible school sessions missed due to unauthorised school absences, young people in care scored over two grades less at GCSE.
- **School exclusions.** For every additional day of school missed due to fixed-term exclusions, young people in care scored one-sixth of a grade less at GCSE.
- **Placement type.** Young people living in residential or another form of care at age 16 scored over six grades less than those who were in kinship or foster care.
- **School type.** Young people who were in special schools at age 16 scored over 14 grades lower in their GCSEs compared to those with the same characteristics who were in mainstream schools. Those in pupil referral units with the same characteristics scored almost 14 grades lower.
- **Educational support.** Young people report that teachers provide the most significant educational support for them but teachers suggest that they need more training to do this effectively.

Policy and Practice Implications

- The progress of children in care shows much variation, which suggests that any interventions need to be tailored to the characteristics and experiences of the individual.
- Education needs to be supported at a much younger age and while children are still living with their birth families, in order to reduce later difficulties relating to adolescence.
- Greater focus on *progress* over time is needed and recognition that some young people take longer to make significant progress.
- When placement moves are essential, school moves should be avoided especially in the final years of schooling.
- Children in care should be placed in mainstream schools with appropriate support wherever possible.
- We need to support young people in care to achieve high attendance at school and we need to support schools not to exclude them.
- Schools that benefit all children are likely to benefit those in care so prioritizing their admission is justified.
- Teachers need better understanding of children's social, emotional and mental health problems; social workers need better understanding of the education system.
- Schools and local authorities should use extra help such as paired reading and one-to-one tuition that are supported by evidence.
- The Virtual Schools, schools, social workers and foster carers should work closely together and involve the young person in decisions affecting them.

Further Information

To find out more about the research:

<http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/research/educational-progress-of-looked-after-children/>

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/sps/research/>

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/educational-progress-looked-after-children>

The overview report is available in hard copy and on the websites of the Rees Centre, University of Bristol and the Nuffield Foundation. To request a free copy, please send an email to rees.centre@education.ox.ac.uk

Contact

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Professor David Berridge, University of Bristol david.berridge@bristol.ac.uk

Acknowledgement

This project was funded by the Nuffield Foundation but the views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Foundation.



"Working together to make Lancashire a better place for this and future generations, where hate crime continually reduces and fear of hate crime is not a constraint to daily life".

The Hate Crime Strategy links with the wider Safer Lancashire Community Safety Agreement and sets out how we will work together to address the Hate Crime priorities for Lancashire. It is owned by the Lancashire Chief Executives Group that brings together representatives from the responsible authorities to set the strategic direction and coordinate partnership activity to tackle crime and disorder. The Hate Crime Strategy is managed and implemented by the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group via annual delivery plans.

The Context

Each of the public sector organisations represented on the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group has responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty's general aims, which include reference to hate crime.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and its "Prevent Duty Guidance" have also placed additional responsibilities on local authorities, the police, universities and other public sector organisations that can have implications for their tackling of hate crime and hate incidents.

In 2012 the Government published its strategy to tackle Hate Crime: Challenge It, Report it, Stop it!. The update published in 2014 highlights that victims are still reluctant to report incidents and the importance of continuing to work with partners including the voluntary sector to ensure that victims feel confident to come forward. Understanding the different forms of hate crime and tailoring the response to the victims are highlighted.

The National College of Policing published the National Policing Hate Crime Strategy in May 2014. The Strategy references a wide variety of important national reports highlighting again the under reporting and lack of confidence to report but specifically the significant effect that hate crime can have upon victims.

In October 2015, the Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group held an evaluation event to identify what might be done to improve the effectiveness of all agencies' responses to hate crime in Lancashire. Feedback evaluated by a team from the University of Central Lancashire indicated that the position in Lancashire reflects the national context.

Our Priorities

To make the people of Lancashire safer by the elimination of Hate Crime and Incidents.

We will do this by:

Creating a wider awareness and understanding of hate crime and incidents in the community at large.

Improving understanding of hate crime and its impact on victims, witnesses and society.

Improving confidence to report Hate Crimes and Incidents.

There is a wealth of evidence that indicates that hate crime and hate incidents are under-reported and that reporting levels vary across the individual strands,

Improving Confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

Confidence in the Criminal Justice System is essential for both witnesses and victims to initially report and then navigate the criminal justice process.

Our Approach

Lancashire benefits from a strong multi-agency commitment to tackling and preventing hate crime in all its forms. Across all the partners there is real sense of energy and commitment to ensuring victims are protected and that perpetrators are brought to justice and encouraged to address their offending behaviour.

The Lancashire Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group brings together a range of partners from the public and voluntary sectors including Lancashire County Council, District Councils in Lancashire, Lancashire Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service, UCLAN and a range of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations with an involvement in hate crime and cohesion issues across Lancashire.

The Group is overseen by Lancashire Chief Executives Group in addition to reporting within its individual member organisations – e.g. within the County Council the Member Champion for Community Safety and Tackling Hate Crime is regularly updated on its work in addition to other issues.

The Group has committed to developing this three year Hate Crime Strategy and a yearly Delivery Plan which will inform the work of the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group in this area and which will be regularly reviewed and monitored by the Group as part of its work.

Our Action

An annual hate crime development plan to meet the objectives of this strategy involving a wide group of partners from both statutory and third sector organisations.

Measuring success:

A thorough evaluation of the programme's results by the SHCCG, supported by the University of Central Lancashire and reporting to the Lancashire Chief Executives Group

Related Strategies and Plans

- The Police and Crime Plan
- Lancashire Constabulary Hate Crime Action Plan
- The Safer Lancashire Community Safety Agreement

Hate Crime:

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on or perception of a person's 'race', religion, sexual orientation, disability or whether a person is or is perceived to be transgender"

Together we are safer Lancashire



What LINX Have Been Doing.....



We have changed our meetings and now meet for one monthly meeting in Central Lancashire and have other focused groups around the County



These focused groups are:

- **Media**
- **Fostering and Adoption**
 - **Young Inspectors**
 - **Care Leavers Forum**



**LINX now has a
Facebook Group and are
working to grow the
number of young people
in the group**





Seven members of LINX have attended 3 Post Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan meetings





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



**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**



Two young people co-presented a seminar at Uclan on Participation





Six members attended the Care Leavers Festival run by the Children's Society The Care Leavers Forum continues each month



**The
Children's
Society**





We have had one primary participation day at Walton-le-dale Youth Centre





One member attended a Foster Carer Support Group to talk about LINX and this resulted in a primary group being planned in Lytham



Two members of LINX have been working with Lancashire Family Criminal Justice Board



Three young people attended the Rebrand of Advice, Assistance and Representation workshop at the Office of the Children's Commissioner





One member attended the ITV FIXERS 'Happy Fix'





**One member attended
the Barnardo's Senior
Leaders Conference and
met with Javed Kahn –
Barnardo's Chief
Executive**



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



Children Looked After have revisited Frances House residential unit



- **LINX won the Outstanding Service to Community Award**
- **One member also won this as an individual**
- **Six members were shortlisted for the Unique talent award as part of the Young Expert Group for Care Experienced Young People**
- **One member won the Unique Talent award as an individual**
- **One member was a finalist for the Responding to the Needs of Others Award**



**The
End**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Believe in
children
Barnardo's

150 years
& always

Summer fayre

run by Lancashire children and
young people in Barnardo's 150th
year

Thursday 11th June 2016 at 11am
to 3pm at Penwortham Girls
School Cop Lane, Preston PR1
0SR

**VARIOUS DISPLAYS
INCLUDING CIRCUS SKILLS**

**Tombola &
Raffle**

Bake off

Please bring your 150th themed cake on the day!

**PONY RIDES Talent Show and Choir
Stalls**

FACE PAINTING

**PENALTY SHOOT
OUT**

MUCH MORE!



Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

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



Our main areas of concern:

- **Re-Referral rate**
- **Settled placements**
- **Looked after children excluded from school**
- **Involvement with youth offending teams**
- **Children and young people being given permanent homes**

**The number of
Children looked
after in
Lancashire is
higher than
February 2015**



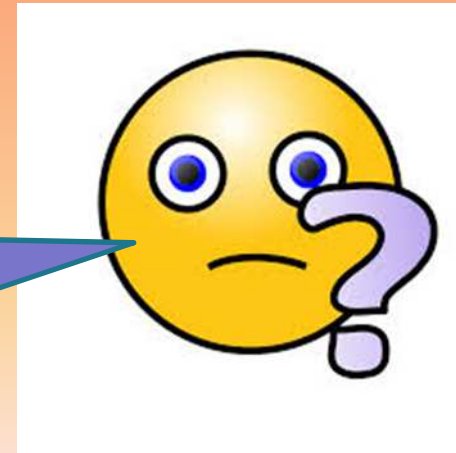
**The current
number of looked
after children in
Lancashire is lower
than in the North
West**

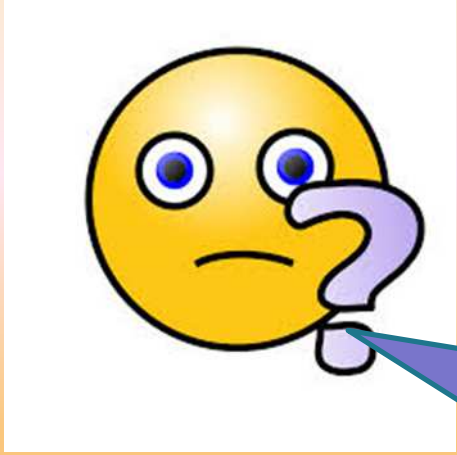




**The contact centre
has received less
referrals than in
previous years,
although more
contacts**

**Do we need
more social
workers to deal
with the
contacts?**





The new single assessments have been being used for a couple of years now, is there any feedback or reviews on how they are going?

Re-referral rate for 2014/15 has gone down – We are happy that the rate has gone down although we know that people don't like to ask for help or are scared to get people involved again

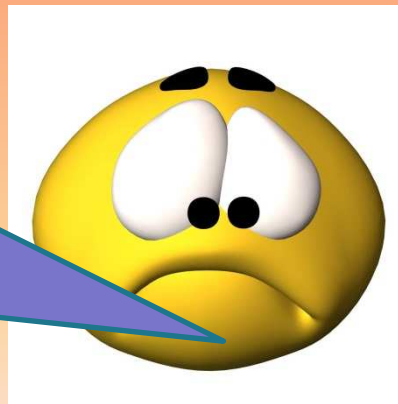


The re-referral rate has been calculated differently since LCS went live – What is LCS? How is the rate calculated? Is this giving the true rate?

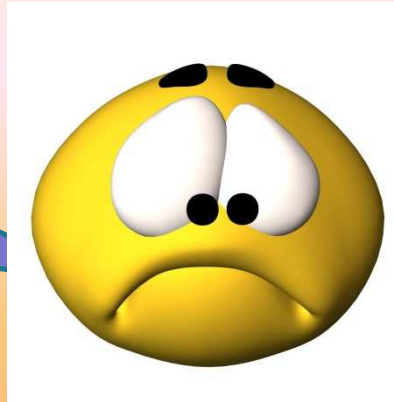


**We are still happy that the number
of placement moves is within
target**

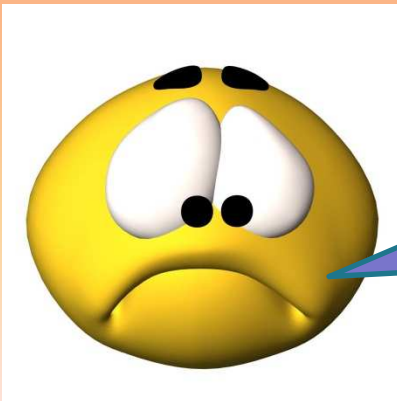
**68 out of 100
children in settled
placements - There
are still too many
looked after children
not in settled
placements**



5 looked after children excluded from school – this is a shocking statistic no looked after child should be permanently excluded



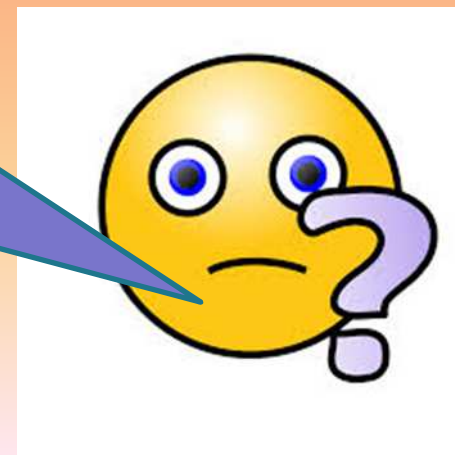
The target of 70 fixed term exclusions should be lowered



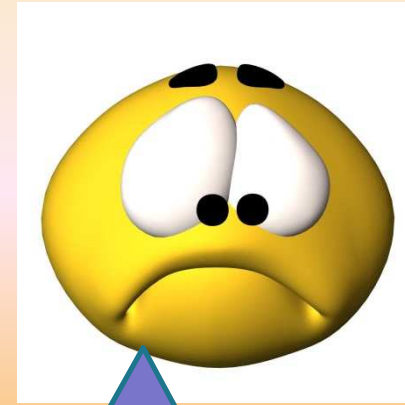
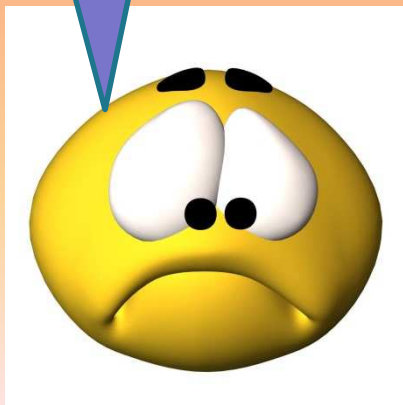
We think it is still a good idea to have additional tutors available in residential homes and for children and young people who are fostered



Is this being looked into?



If we are attending an appointment we shouldn't be classed as absent from school

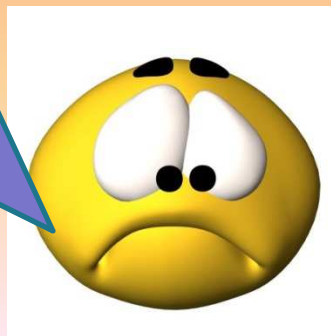


It can disrupt the day if children and young people have to go to appointments during the school day

We are happy about the new workers being employed in schools and think this could reduce the number of exclusions and give support to looked after children



The number of looked after children involved with youth offending teams is a poor fact. There should be more support for looked after children and activities for them to do to keep them away from crime and to be with the right people



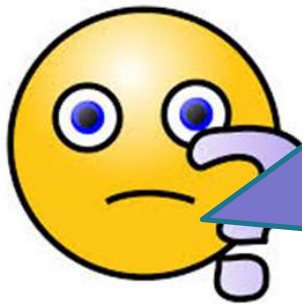
More young people have an up to date dental assessment – this is good



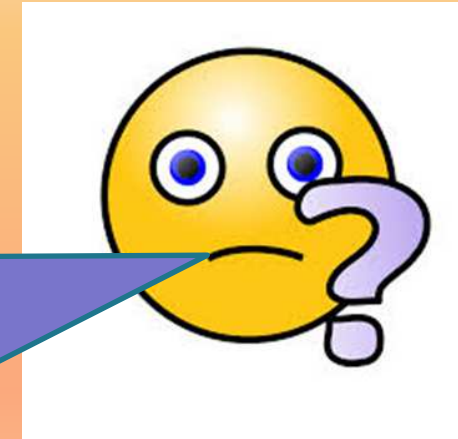
It is positive that more looked after children than ever are being given a permanent home



Could there be more done to allow more looked after children to have a permanent home? Are there looked after children who could be adopted but aren't due to not finding the right match?



It is still important that we are involved in leaving care and see options of placements and there is support given around budgeting. We are not sure that this always happens



Many more looked after children need to be in education and training and more early support is needed



We are happy the number of care leavers attending university each year is going up. It would be useful to know why they are going up?



The End



Children Looked After Young Inspectors Update April 2016



April 2016

There are currently 14 trained members of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors Team

The Young Inspectors visit

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

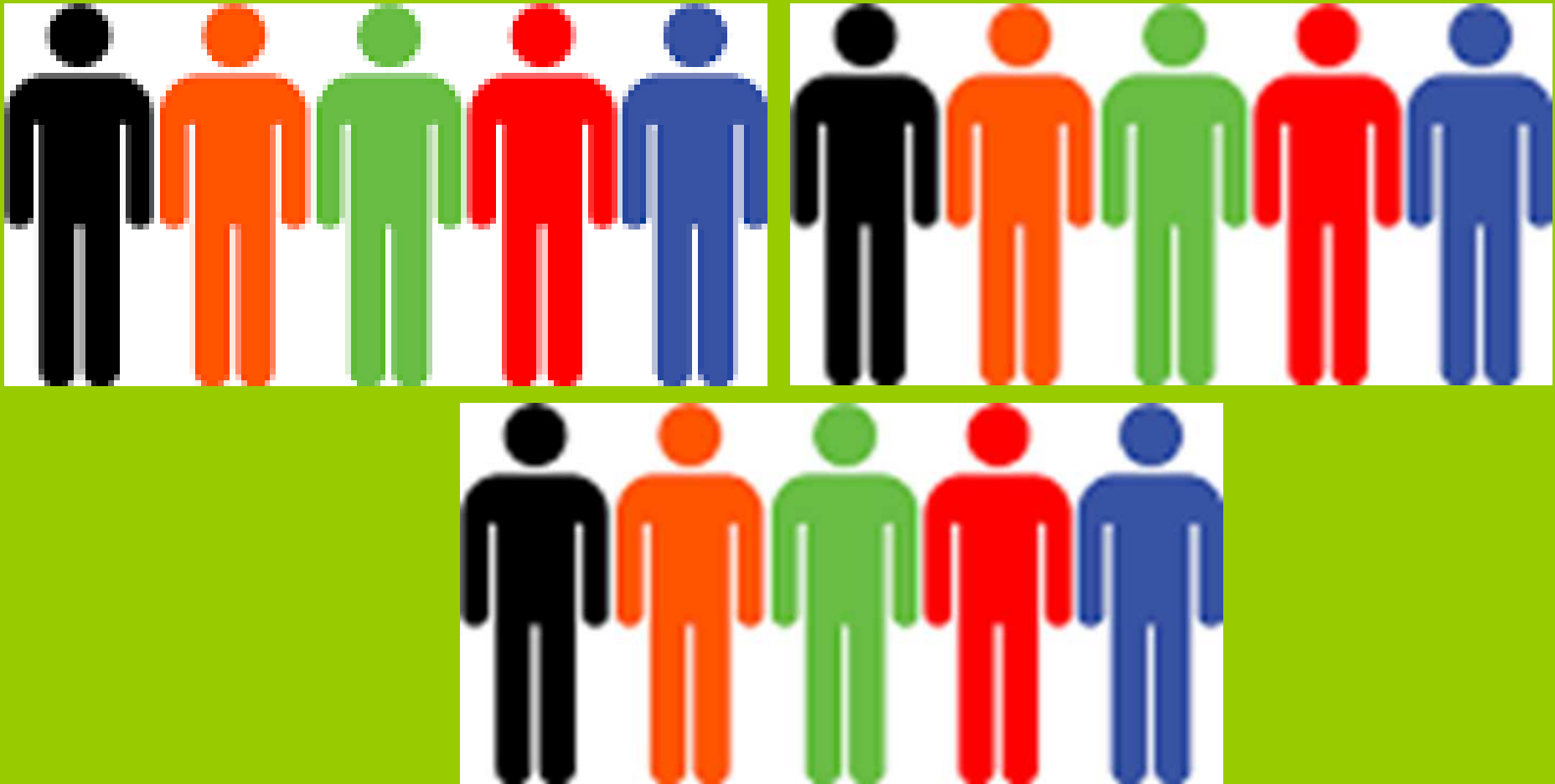
In March young inspectors revisited one agency fostering provider and have written the first draft report



In March young inspectors revisited a further two agency fostering providers and are currently writing the first draft reports



In April, a further 2 young people received training to join the team of Children Looked After young



Refresher training for all the young people took place at county hall in April during the school holidays

Here the young people revised the questions that are asked of staff and service users at inspections



In April Young Inspectors revisited an agency residential unit in East Lancashire and are writing the first draft report



In April 1 member of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors and 2 members of SEND Young Inspectors visited the Chief Executive of Barnardo's at a senior leader conference in Birmingham to conduct an inspection of him carrying out his role

A further revisit to an agency residential unit in East Lancashire is planned for April.



THANK
YOU



National Care Leavers Strategy

North West Meeting
February 2016

National Care leavers Strategy Aims to:

Our ambition is for the state as 'corporate parent'
to provide the same level of support as any
reasonable parent

We want to improve the life chances for care
leavers and their ability to go far in life, so that
they aren't held back by their childhood
experiences

What do care leavers say they need?

SUPPORT – People easy to get hold of, positive relationships, people who aim high for them, useful support

PREPARATION TO LEAVE CARE – decisions to be well planned and not rushed, more preparation for living independently

OPTIONS – More and better choices of where to live, better help from job centre plus and housing, to be able to stay in residential care when you are over 18, decisions based on what is best for the young person (not money)

Less Debt, Less Poverty

Making sure care leavers can still get housing benefit
(other 18-21 year olds can't)

Change the rules so care leavers get a lower rate of
housing benefit (for shared accommodation until
they're 25 (22 now))

Review how housing benefit is used to fund 'staying
put'

Promote new ideas to avoid council tax and rent
arrears

Access to Education, Employment and Training

Make it easier to get into apprenticeships and jobs and **give more support**

Closer working with job centre plus staff to **offer support depending on what each individual wants/needs**

A place on the national citizen service for every 16/17 in care or care leaver

Develop ways to do 'payment by results' (organisations get paid when they help care leavers get better outcomes)

Safety and Security

Work with home office to protect care leavers from risks such as sexual exploitation and gangs

Think about inspecting semi-independent placements and hostels.

Improve accommodation for care leavers

Know who in criminal justice system are care leavers and support them better

Health and Well being

Mental health – make sure CAMHS plans will benefit care leavers

Manage care leavers move to adult services to avoid a 'cliff edge' at 18

Think about having a specialist mental health assessment for children when they come into care.

Physical Health

More support to avoid unplanned pregnancies

Highlight the support that is available to young parents, such as the family nurse partnership programme

More support to avoid substance misuse

Well Prepared for Independence

Test ways to support care leavers better

Look at what Personal Advisers do and how we might improve them

Share the good stuff local authorities are doing

Introduce a corporate parenting score card

Encourage new creative ways of working

Children's Services Improvement

Linda Clegg

Director of Children's Services

Minute Item 6



Ofsted inspection

Inspection took place September 2015

Report published November 2015

Overall inadequate judgement

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board judgement - good

Accepted and recognise we need to improve significantly and quickly

Why am I here?

- Lancashire needed additional leadership capacity and expertise
- Agreement between Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire
- Statutory Director of Children Services for Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire
- 50:50 time split (ish!)
- To be reviewed after 6 months

Initial thoughts....

**Less
priorities**

**Right first
time**

**Keep
children
safe**

**Keep it
simple**

**More
pace**

**Leadership
at all levels**

Improvement Board

Meets monthly since January 2016

Independent chair – Tony Crane

Multi agency group includes social worker and young people

Responsible for providing support and challenge and overseeing progress

Improvement Plan

Submitted to the Department for Education 70 days after Ofsted report published

Framed around their 17 recommendations

Details what good would look like

Will evolve and change over time

Improvement notice

Monitoring and review

Ofsted monthly monitoring visit

Monthly Improvement Board

Peer reviews – October 2016 and February 2017

LSCB – multi agency audits and thematic reviews (eg one ongoing on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub at the moment)

DfE six month reviews

Current picture

Caseloads still high

High numbers of agency and newly qualified staff

Demand continues to rise

Outcomes for children have not improved

Staff committed and enthusiastic about improving

Some key development so far....

Child in Need – reviewed all cases, CiN hubs in place from 9 May

Care Leavers – specialist support in place from 9 May

Project Accuracy – information and data is timely and correct

Additional capacity - £4.6 million agreed and being implemented

Risk, demand and quality assurance – introducing new models

Framework agreement – breathing space for staff

District model – intensive support, focussed and then replicate

Outcomes for children

lot of talk about systems, process, structures, reviews.....but we need to get to a point where we are talking about improved outcomes and that we can evidence this.

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Our vision

Lancashire's children and young people told us what is important

Working with our partners, we're here to help children and young people to:



Our priorities

By delivering high quality children's services we will keep children:

SAFE

When children are vulnerable, act quickly and sensitively

PROTECTED

With partners, assess and agree a plan to manage and protect those at risk

SUPPORTED

Make sure young people are supported to achieve their full potential



