

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Prynne

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 1 December 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)

County Councillor Prynne

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

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

County Councillor Prynne and other Elected Members

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

What have our Young People been doing?

4. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins) (Pages 7 - 16)

Young People and Barnardo's

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

Young Inspectors update
Feedback on Performance report
Care Leaver speaking, invited by Sue Prynne
Care leaver discussion with Jane Hylton
Benefit entitlements and sanctions

What Do We Need to Know

5. Update on what Personal Adviser (PPA) Hubs Do and the Role of a Personal Adviser (20 mins) (Pages 17 - 28)

Jane Hylton, Children's Social Care, LCC

To receive an update.

6. Care of the Vulnerable Workstream (20 mins)

Kelly Taylor, NHS East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissionin Group (CCG)

To receive feedback.

**7. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (Pages 29 - 30)
Reforms and the Local Areas Inspection (15 mins)**

Stephen Martin

To discuss how the CPB considers SEND in its discussions and decisions.

8. Any Other Business

County Councillor Pryn

To receive any other business.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Pryn

Thursday, 20 April 2017 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Duke of Lancaster Room – Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Information Item

10. CPB Annual Report to LSCB (Pages 31 - 60)

To note the CPB Annual report that was presented to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board meeting on 13 February 2017.

11. Update on Activity Day (Pages 61 - 62)

To note the report from the event which took place on 5 November 2016.

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 1st December, 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 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
County Councillor Cynthia Dereli	-	Lancashire County Council
Catherine	-	representing Adoption
Tony Morrissey	-	Deputy Director, Children's Services
Gina	-	LINX Representative
Shantelle	-	LINX Representative
Michelle	-	LINX Representative
Lisa	-	LINX Representative
Mark	-	LINX Representative
Kris	-	LINX Representative
Callum	-	LINX Representative
Natalie	-	LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	-	Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	-	Barnardos
Mia Leyland	-	Barnardos
Susan Towers	-	Agency Residential
Angela Epps	-	Agency Fostering
Amanda Mansfield	-	Independent Reviewing Officers

Other Attendees

Kirsty Clarke	-	Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Kieran Danskin	-	Apprentice - LCC
Natasha Wright	-	Apprentice, LCC
Anna Howarth	-	Lancashire Care Foundation Trust

Colette Lawler	-	Lancashire Care Foundation Trust
CC Tomlinson	-	Lancashire County Council
Andreas Feldhaar	-	Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton	-	Lancashire County Council
Annette McNeil	-	Lancashire County Council
Marcus Devaney	-	Lancashire County Council
Jane Hylton	-	Lancashire County Council
Thomas Redfearn	-	The Children's Society
Kirsten Naude	-	The Children's Society
Rob Dickinson	-	The Children's Society

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor Dorothy Lord, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Lynsey Evans, Mark Twiname, Audrey Swann and Debbie Duffell.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 8 September 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 Pryn

Attended an activity day at Preston North End Football Club for prospective adoptive parents where they were presented with packs on children who are awaiting adoption. CC Pryn raised some points with Tony Morrissey who will discuss with Children's Social Care.

Working with officers around commissioning Mental Health Services and more specifically with vulnerable groups. CC Pryn has fed back to officers what services children looked after and care leavers receive especially around post-traumatic stress disorder, attachment and isolation issues and that they need to listen to those young people who use the services.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (CSSC) have been looking at strategies to attract more foster carers and CC Pryn has suggested to the CSSC Chair that it may be an idea for the CPB to be involved in this, particularly with regards to promoting the fostering of teenagers.

Action: CPB to work jointly with CSSC with regards to work on fostering campaigns. Sam Gorton to send an email to the Chair of CSSC, County Councillor Gina Dowding stating that the CPB would like to be involved with work on fostering campaigns, suggesting that the CPB and LINX do a piece of work on trying to attract more people to foster teenagers (a group which is considered more difficult to find foster placements for).

CC Prynne, Brindle and Beavers are going to visit supported accommodation around the County for 16/17 year olds as these are a particularly vulnerable group of care leavers.

It was noted that a letter had been received recently from a former care leaver praising the support he had received from social care, especially Darren Tahir and his team. It stated that they had been instrumental in his success and that he had recently trained and become a solicitor.

4. Peer to Peer Mentoring (30 mins)

Tom Redfearn, Kirsten Naude and Rob Dickinson from The Children's Society (TCS) were welcomed to the meeting talk about a proposal that is being piloted called "Financial Peer-to-Peer Mentoring".

The proposed model is delivered in four phases as detailed in the PowerPoint presentation attached to these minutes and the organisational outcome from the pilot is that "Families are less likely to fall into debt and families are able to manage in difficult financial situations". It is crucial that care leavers learn about money matters.

The potential next steps is to aim to develop financial resourcefulness in vulnerable young people and help them to manage their finances, debt and financial opportunities.

Lancashire's CPB can get involved with this with their care leavers and pilot this scheme.

It was noted that Callum had carried out some work with TCS on raising awareness around debt and helped to create a leaflet for this to help other care leavers.

Action: CC Prynne, Tony Morrissey and Jane Hylton to speak to Rob/Kirsten/Tom outside of the meeting and see how Lancashire can become involved and tailor the scheme to appropriately to Lancashire's requirements. This work would also involve care leavers too to get their thoughts on the scheme.

Tom, Kirsten and Rob were thanked for attending the Board meeting.

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

What LINX have been doing

LINX gave a detailed account of what they had been doing since 8 September 2016. Details can be found on the PowerPoint attached.

The Board congratulated the young people on all the amazing work they had carried out and the awards they had won. The Board are very grateful and the young people are a credit to Lancashire.

National Leaving Care Benchmark

Kieran then spoke about the National Leaving Care Benchmark that he and Natasha attended in Chelsea where they met with other care leavers from around the Country to work on a project called "Show Me That I Matter". They discussed what Lancashire had been doing and created a poster. They have now been invited to another National event in York with Social Work Managers.

Kieran has also been working on the preparation for independence pack.

Performance Report

LINX provided the Board with feedback from the Performance Report. Their comments are attached on the Powerpoint included with these minutes. They were impressed with the work the Virtual Head and her team had done on raising educational targets and the change in Key Stage 4 stats especially as these are changing and schools are measured on progress not just results now.

Mental Health

LINX have been looking at mental health in their groups and the Board engaged in a quiz as attached to these minutes.

Main points raised were that LINX would like a leaflet for LINX and Foster Carers to include information on topics such as:

- Self-esteem
- Self-harm
- Stress
- Trust issues
- Depression

Also details on where help can be accessed from.

Takeover November

Concerns were raised with regards obtaining permissions for young people to come out of school to take part on takeover events – Barnardo's are having to try to overcome numerous barriers which has been really frustrating and upsetting for some young people as they have not been able to get involved.

Kirsty Clarke from The Children's Society echoed the same challenges with regards contacting social workers.

Action: Tony Morrissey to discuss the issues further with Barnardo's and The Children's Society outside the meeting.

Rights and Entitlements for CLA and Care Leavers

Marcus Devaney and Jane Hilton gave a demonstration on a new work in progress website which will benefit CLA and Care Leavers in knowing what their rights and entitlements are.

The Board felt that this was the way forward instead of having to search around Lancashire County Council and other external websites to try and find information out. A simple completion of an e-form will take them directly to the information they require and because it is electronic it will be easier to update and ensure correct information is available real time.

The next stage in the process is to discuss this further with ICT and Communication to develop it further.

Marcus agreed to attend a LINX meeting and talk further with them about what they want from the website.

Marcus and Jane agreed to come back to the Board at a later date when the website is in operation.

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

It was agreed that Jane would come back to the next meeting as there was not enough time left to discuss the item.

Action: Sam to put on the agenda for the next meeting in February 2017.

7. Any Other Business

Service 6 Bid

CC Pryn reported that the bid was nearly complete and will then be submitted.

Action: Kris and Jane Hylton to liaise further about Service 6 work outside the meeting.

Respite Care

CC Pryn also reported that Louise Taylor approached the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to suggest looking at a project to introduce respite care for families in crisis where children are at risk of going into care. Such respite would be provided by willing volunteers in the community. CC Pryn stated that she had mentioned at the same meeting that care leavers could also benefit from such a scheme where identified 'community mentors' in each county division

could support care leavers. Would there be a role for each County Councillor in this?

Action: CC Prynne to ask Sam to invite Louise to a future CPB meeting to talk about this and whether this project could be adapted to provide community mentors for care leavers across Lancashire.

8. Meeting Schedule 2017

The meeting schedule for 2017 was noted.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

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.

10. Update on Activity Day

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email georgine.lee@lancashire.gov.uk.

11. LSCB Annual Report

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email jane.booth@lancashire.gov.uk.

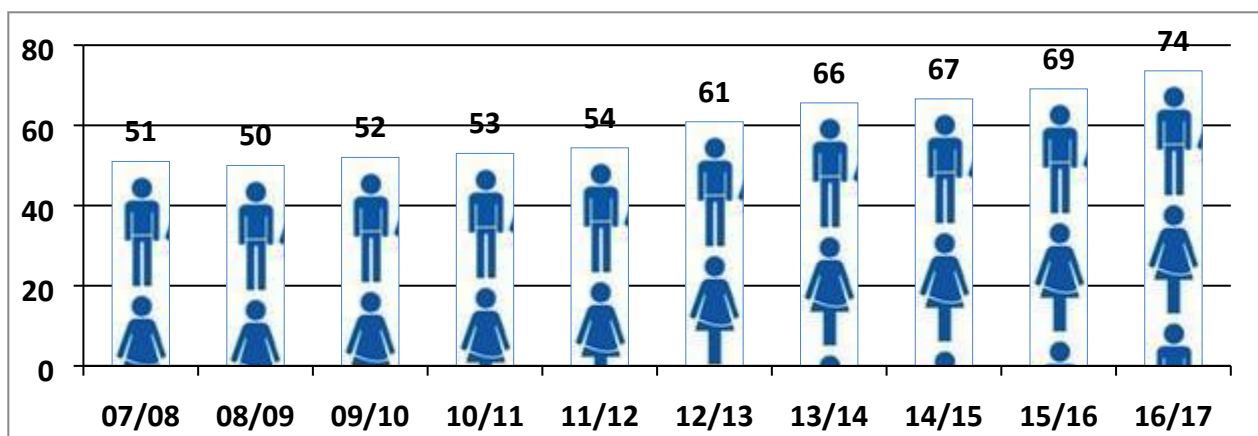
Agenda Item 4

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, JANUARY 2017

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of December 2016 there were **1,816** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **74** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after further increased in December and is higher than 12 months ago (December 15 - 1603)
- 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 (63.7 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 December 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 1st 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	1819
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1175	1370	1679	868	958	862
Initial Assessments	9891	11288	11865	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5019	5901	5724	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	--	1089	1253	1241

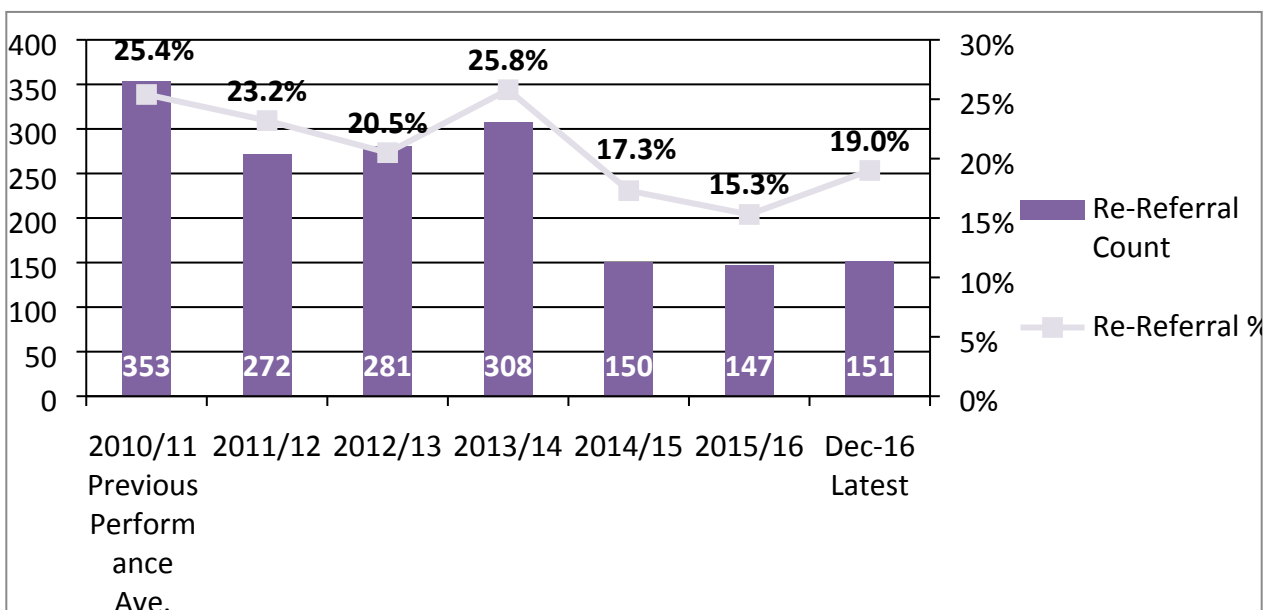
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013, a large number of contacts from the Police have been passed to MASH rather than going through Care Connect.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first 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 (1241) are currently slightly lower than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1253).

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 **19%** in December 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 December 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	December 16		
9.6%	6.8%	6.7%	4.4%	9.5%	

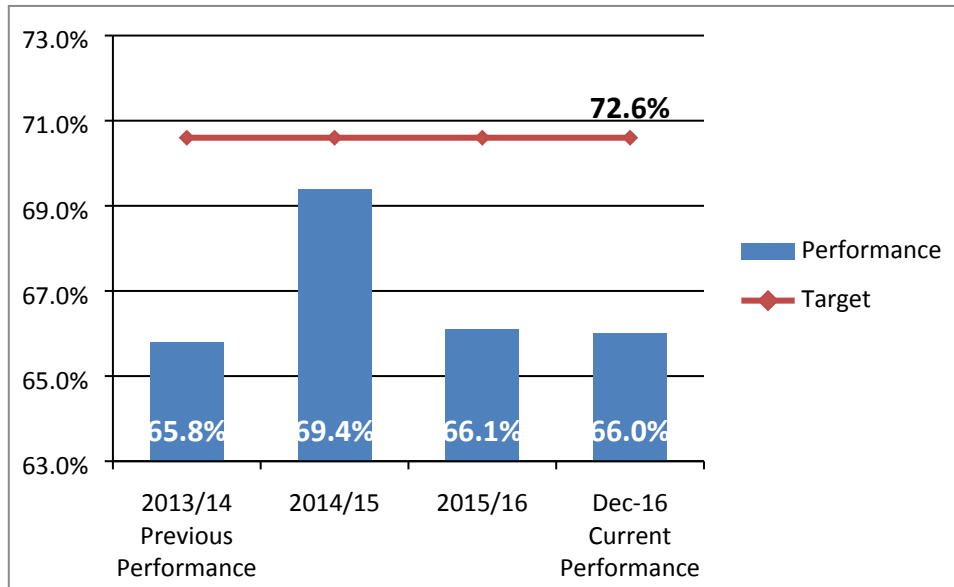
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance has improved in December, 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.
- December 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 the same as 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.

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	Q3 16/17
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361	166	90	85	76
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365	145	63	63	63
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764	-	-	-	
Other Children Missing	1338	742	-	-	-	
Children Missing within Lancashire boundaries	2456	2222	891	414	422	307

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:

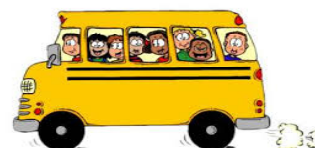
- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after increased in 2014/15 with **14** out of **100** CLA achieving 5 A*-C including English and Maths.
- ❖ Across England in 2014/15, just under **14** per 100 children looked after achieved 5 A*-C inc. English & Maths, slightly less than 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:

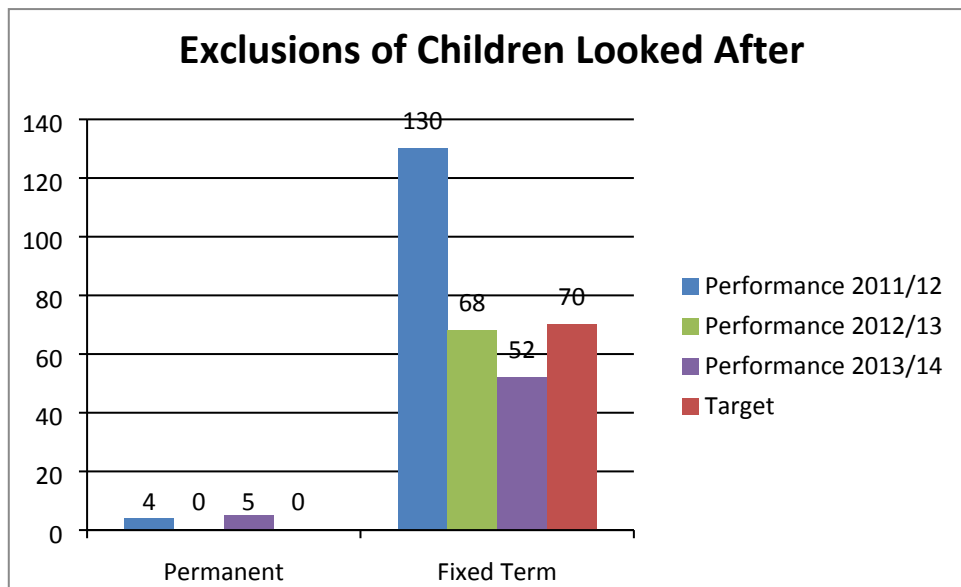
- ❖ Young people feel that the lower performance for secondary school pupils are a reflection of the increased age of these pupils and the free will exerted by those who are older leading them to miss school. The stress of placement moves and of being in care were also cited as reasons for non-attendance, 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, **8** as at 31st December 2016.
- 1.8% of eligible Lancashire CLA were known to the Youth Offending Team in Q3 2016/17.
- 12.7% of young people receiving YOT orders were CLA in Q3 2016/17.

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

- **92** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (December 2016)
- This is a similar percentage of up-to-date health assessments as the previous year (December 2015 - **93**)
- **79** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (December 2016)
- This position has improved recently after reaching a new in-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 third 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. In the second quarter, the figures were identical. Q3 saw a further **23** SGOs granted, with an additional **6** 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 December 2016, out of 100 care leavers, **89** 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:

- December 2016 data suggests **51%** 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 over 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.

The Professional Personal Advisor (PPA) Teams

What the PPA hubs do, and the role of the PPA...

- Response to Ofsted feedback (September 2015)
- Feedback from Care Leavers
- Dedicated teams for Care Leavers
- Additional management capacity

- Who are we
- What do we do
- How do we do it

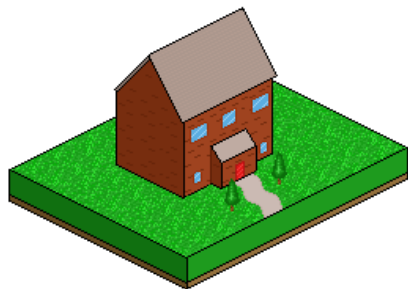
Who are we?

- The PPA Teams cover 3 Localities:

North	Andreas Feldhaar	1 social worker	5.5 PPA's
Central	Roxanne McAllister	1 social worker	12 PPA's
East	Cath Brooks	1 social worker	14.5 PPA's

What do we do





How we do it

Housing

- Talk to young people about their accommodation options and wishes
- Review accommodation options every 6 months
- Team managers attend housing panels in their localities - to ensure the housing needs of care leavers are regularly discussed
- Provide tenancy advice/guidance/support
- Work together with the young person to see what is needed when living independently (SUHA, emotional needs, practical support etc)
- Assist in setting up utilities
- Regular visits until settled in



How we do it

Employment, education and training

- Link with WPEH and LCC apprenticeship scheme to support young people with their intended destination
- Attend PeP meetings
- Link in with colleges (named PPA)
- Provide Local Authority bursary
- Support young person to identify vacation accommodation



How we do it

Rights and entitlements

- Access and support young people with SUHA
- Help fill in forms and attend appointments at benefits office
- All PPA's have received specialist training in this area
- Developed good links with local job centre's (SPOCS)



How we do it

Preparing for Independence

Ongoing project with key stakeholders involved to develop core offer



How we do it

Participation

- Setting up locality care leaver forums to feed into the County Care Leaver forum
- Support young people to attend Care Leaver forum
- Identify and support young people to be part of interview panels
- Care leavers involved in delivering training to PPA's

What we have achieved

We still have a long way to go..... A lot more to achieve - but below are examples of progress

- LCC mentoring programme
- Student mentoring Programme with UCLan
- Dedicated team with all staff having received specialist training
- Two care leavers representing Benchmarking Forum
- New style pathway plan
- Established SCAYT consultation to assist PPA's working with young people

SEND Local Area Inspection

Purpose of the report and Summary

To inform the Corporate Parenting Board about the Special Educational Needs and Disability Local Area Inspection and what they need to do when the inspection happens in Lancashire, and how the SEND Service can help to prepare you.

Key Information and Questions for Board Members

- In September 2014 the way schools, health and local authorities work with children and young people with a special educational need and disability changed.
- In May 2016, OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) started to look at how well schools, health and local authorities are working in this new way.
- Lancashire will be looked at between now and May 2021. We do not know exactly when this will be.
- When we are picked to be inspected, we will get a phone call on Monday morning to tell us they will be coming the following week.
- When they come, the inspectors will want to talk to children and young people to see how well they think schools, health and the local authority are doing.
- Barnardo's have been told and they are starting to think about how POWAR/LINX will do this.
- Looked after children with special educational needs and disabilities are a key group in the new way of working and inspectors will want to know how the Corporate Parenting Board are involved and informed about what is happening.
- The SEND Service have started an Inspection Preparation Group to look at getting Lancashire ready for the inspection.

- Do the Corporate Parenting Board know about the changes that happened in September 2014 with the Children and Families Act?
- What reports, briefings, information would the Corporate Parenting Board like to receive about what is happening with special educational needs and disability? And how often?
- Would a member of the Corporate Parenting Board like to attend the inspection meetings?

Stephen Martin
SEND Senior Manager East Lancashire
Email: Stephen.martin@lancashire.gov.uk
Mobile: 07557 015172
Date: 23rd January 2017

Children Looked After – The Role of the Corporate Parenting Board

Presentation by
Bradley Wilson, LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care
Council)
County Councillor Sue Prynne, Chair of the Corporate
Parenting Board
&
Tony Morrissey, Deputy Director for Children's Services
13 January 2017

Aims of Presentation

To outline the:

- Purpose of Corporate Parenting Board
- Priorities
- Life in Care
- Achievements
- Facts
- Continuous Improvement

How the Board Works

- Bi monthly evening meetings
- Agenda linked to agreed priorities
- Active involvement of young people
- Young people set the agenda and chair one meeting per year
- Elected members meet prior to the meeting
- Young people meet prior to the meeting
- Elected member champions
- Working group support
- Presentation, reports, interactive activity and celebration
- Reports to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

Response to Ofsted Report

- The children in care council (CICC) remains well established and integrated into the CPB
- Elected Members on the CPB undertake visits to Children's Homes (in-house and agency) to measure the quality of care
- The Young Inspectors report their findings to the CPB

Response to Ofsted Report

- The CPB scrutinise and challenge the progress of CLA in respect to educational attainment
- The CPB receives the IRO Annual report and challenges any areas for improvement
- The CPB Elected Members attend adoption activity days to monitor and support permanence planning

Response to Ofsted Report

- The CPB receives regular updates on Care Leavers and challenges practice
- The CPB champions care leavers exemption from Council Tax
- The CPB works with Third Sector organisations e.g. Barnardos/TCS to look at innovative ways of working

Response to Ofsted Report

- CPB Elected Members are looking at the quality of Supported Accommodation for Care Leavers
- CPB Elected Members are looking at the quality of Mental Health Provision for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Children Looked After need to be listened to

Life for us in care in Lancashire



Being in care: What is different for us?

It's important to remember that...

“everyone's in care for different reasons” and that “everyone is an individual”.

All children and young people have different needs but for those that are in care there are some things that are different. Our experiences are different and we have different needs.

Some things about Children Looked After (CLA) that maybe people do not think about...

Your home or placement:

- Sometimes we have lots of placements and this can be difficult
- Some people might feel like where they live is not their home
- We have to learn to live with other young people
- We can end up living in a different area to where we grew up
- Sometimes we lose contact with friends and this can be upsetting

The People:

- There are lots of people involved in making decisions for you
- Sometimes we are the last to find out important information
- It is not your family – someone is paid to look after you
- You do not always have strong relationships with the people in your life

Rules:

- Getting consent to go on trips – this can sometimes take a lot of time
- Getting consent for photographs – we can say we are happy to have our photo taken but have to wait for our social worker to say it's ok

Leaving care:

- Moving into independence – feeling too young and not having enough information or support
- Provision when leaving care is reduced

Some other activities...

The Children in Care Council:

- is part of the Lancashire Youth Council structure
- are involved in the Recruitment and Selection of staff at numerous agencies including Lancashire County Council, Barnardo's and The Office of the Children's Commissioner
- lead on 50% of all Corporate Parenting Board Meetings and deliver a full young person led meeting each year
- deliver training and presentations to the Children's Trust Workforce and other agencies such as the Council for Disabled Children
- are represented at several National Forums including Children's Rights Alliance for England, CAFCASS and The Office of the Children's Commissioner
- part of the North West Regional Children in Care Council group and Lancashire have hosted a meeting
- are young inspectors and inspect residential homes and fostering agencies
- sit on the Lancashire Post-Ofsted improvement board
- participate in Takeover month
- wider activity with regard to Care Leavers around apprenticeships and attendance at national and regional forums

Some things we like...

We like being involved in decisions made about us.

Having the Children in Care Council is important as it gives the opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard.

A young person said, "Being part of LINX has given me confidence and made me more resilient."

Some things we want to change...

- More explanation about decisions that are made and any rules that are put in place
- More support when leaving care including more information and workers that are available when we need them
- The Corporate Parenting Board is good and we like running half of it but sometimes it's hard for us to follow the information professionals present, we would like this to be more interactive
- We would like to be given information that is easy for us to read and understand, we like information that is easy to find online
- We would like to have more contact with our siblings or family, this is important to us
- We want to be made aware of what is going on whilst we are in care and we want to be part of any decision made about us

Achievements

- Proud Award – Outstanding Service to the Community for LINX
- Diana award for the Young Inspectors Group
- British Youth Council Awards including:
 - ‘Inspiring Youth Led’ award for the Young Inspectors
 - ‘Inspiring Youth Led’ award for the Children in Care Council
- Young person been invited to the Queen’s Garden Party in Summer 2017

Achievements

- We put forward a proposal to exempt all care leavers from paying council tax until they are 25 years old. We wrote a letter to all the district councils and this was supported by Corporate Parenting Board
- Chorley Council have recently accepted this proposal! We are very happy about this and are hopeful that other district councils will follow

So What Have We Achieved?

Words to Actions to Outcomes

Action	Difference Made
Celebrating Achievement	Supported annual PROUD celebration event.
Reassurance from Activity Days	7 children have attended activity days in 2016 – 3 matches with adopters have been confirmed to date and expressions of interest are also currently being followed up. It was noted that how the CPB had monitored and evaluated the Activity Days at various stages of the process, was a good example of the Board exercising its scrutiny function.
Regulation 22 Visits carried out by Elected Members	Visits continue to be carried out as well as Young Inspectors regularly inspecting establishments too. A visit was also carried out to an Out of County placement.
Housing – Policies and Council Tax Exemption	The Board has worked alongside the CiCC on Council Tax exemption for up to 25 year olds. This work continues, with one Council already agreeing from April 2017 to adopt this. District Councils were asked to look at their Housing Policies and ensure that there were reference specifically to care leavers in them.
Performance Report scrutinised by LINX before every Board meeting	In 2015, 86.5% of Children Looked After had up to date health assessments and 73.9% had up to date dental assessment, which were higher and lower than in the previous year respectively. At the end of March 2016, these respective proportions were 91.9% and 71.2%. Performance as at 31 st October 2016 was 88% and 73.7% respectively.

So What Have We Achieved? Cont'd

Words to Actions to Outcomes

Action	Difference Made
Raise awareness of the Pupil Premium	The development of the Education Provision Map, which has to be provided by schools for each looked after child, had greatly increased the transparency around the use of pupil premium grant and the impact it has on pupil progress and attainment. We no longer have Education Provision Maps – from April 2016, Personal Education Plans (PEP) included the missing information. Currently 86% of CLA have a PEP.

Life in Care – Facts

Question	Answer
How many children and young people does Lancashire County Council have in its care?	Number has risen over the last year and was 1,691 at 31 March 2016. Rate per 10,000 at 69.1 is above that of England (60.0) and statistical neighbours (62.0) and well below the regional rate (82.0). At 31.10.2016 – 1,791 & 72.9.
What is the peak age for children/young people coming into our care?	As of 31 st March 2016, Children and young people aged under 10 years accounts for 46.7% of those in our care but the peak ages for entering care are 0-1 years old. As of 31 st October 2016, this proportion was 45.3%.
Where might children in our care live?	With foster carers, in a children’s home, and with relatives/family friends.
What proportion of these live with foster parents?	As of 31 st March 2016, 63.4% were in foster care. As of 31 st October 2016, this proportion was 61.2%.
Why do children and young people come into care?	Mainly due to abuse, neglect and family stress/problems.
How many CLA are also known to the Youth Justice system?	As of 31 st March 2016, 20.8% of children looked after had cautions/convictions. As of 30 th September 2016, this proportion was 13.6%.
At what age do Care Orders end?	18 years old – however we know in reality with our own families that ideally young people should stay with foster carers until 21 years old.

Life in Care – Facts Cont'd...

TOTAL NUMBERS OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER					
District Team	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Sep-16	% of Total CLA
Lancaster	110	131	146	159	8.9
Fylde/Wyre	73	104	101	121	6.8
Preston	178	183	224	246	13.7
Chorley/ South Ribble	153	153	193	222	12.4
West Lancashire	118	109	87	101	5.6
Hyndburn/ Ribble Valley	151	175	205	232	13.0
Burnley	219	241	262	262	14.6
Pendle	176	184	194	211	11.8
Rosendale	88	88	88	100	5.6
District	1266	1368	1500	1654	92.4
Central teams*	325	258	191	137	7.6
Lancashire CLA	1591	1626	1691	1791	100
Validated**	1585	1590	1665		



Commencement of LCS

**Where cases on LCS are not assigned to a district CSC team
**Slight differences in between in-house and validated numbers due to timing of when data reports were run*

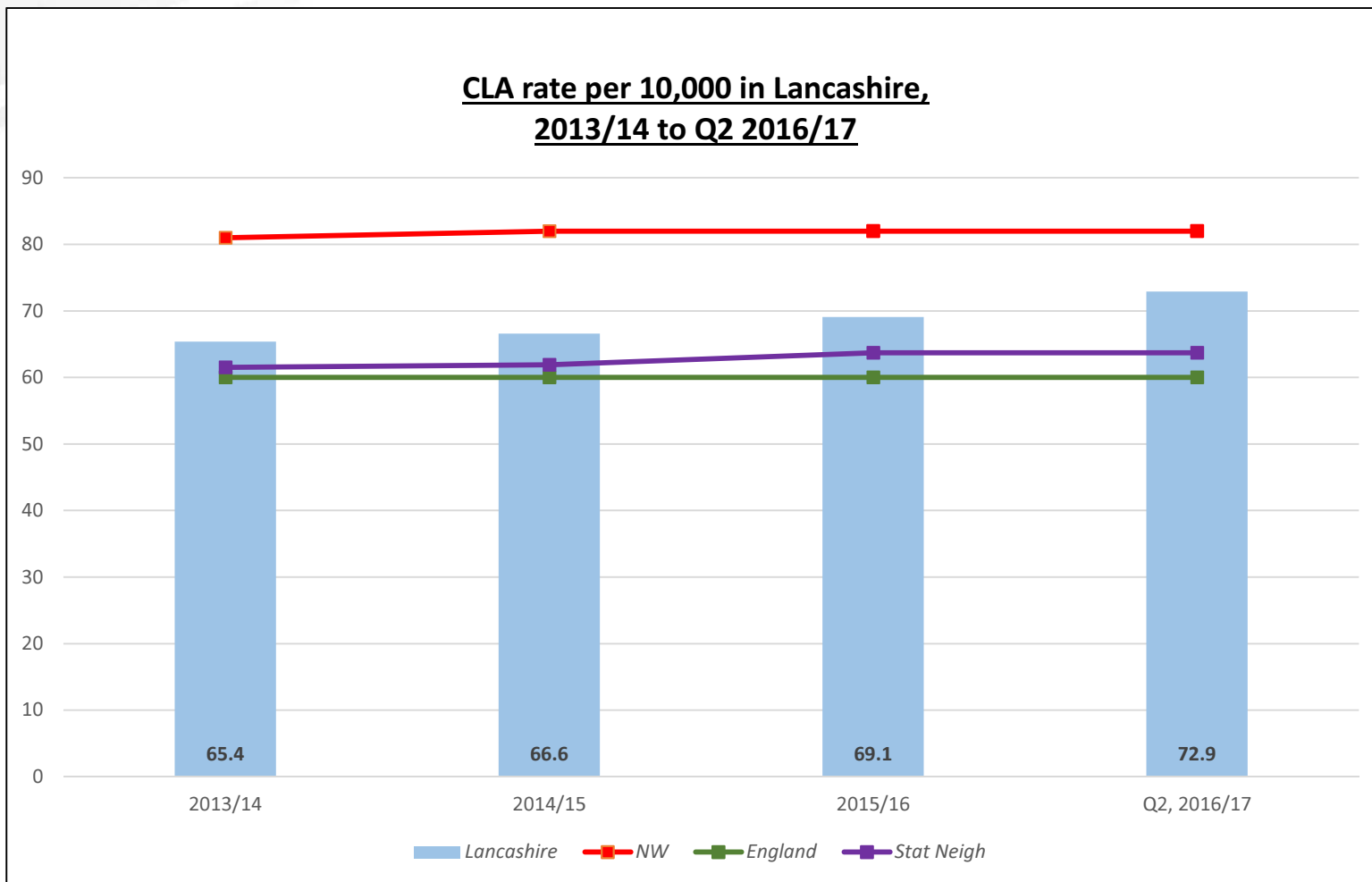
Life in Care – Facts Cont'd...

RATE PER 10,000 (0 – 17) OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER				
District	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Oct-16
Lancaster	41.8	49.3	54.6	59.1
Fylde/Wyre	21.8	31.1	30.0	35.9
Preston	59.2	60.2	73.0	79.7
Chorley/South Ribble	34.0	33.8	42.5	48.7
W Lancs	52.3	48.8	38.9	45.4
Hyndburn/Ribble Valley	49.3	57.4	67.4	76.6
Burnley	112.3	123.9	133.7	132.9
Pendle	85.6	88.4	93.3	101.2
Rossendale	58.3	58.2	57.9	65.4
Lancashire CLA	65.4	66.6	69.1	72.9
Validated*	65	65	68	

→
Commencement of LCS

**Slight differences in between in-house and validated rates of CLA due to timing of when data reports were run*

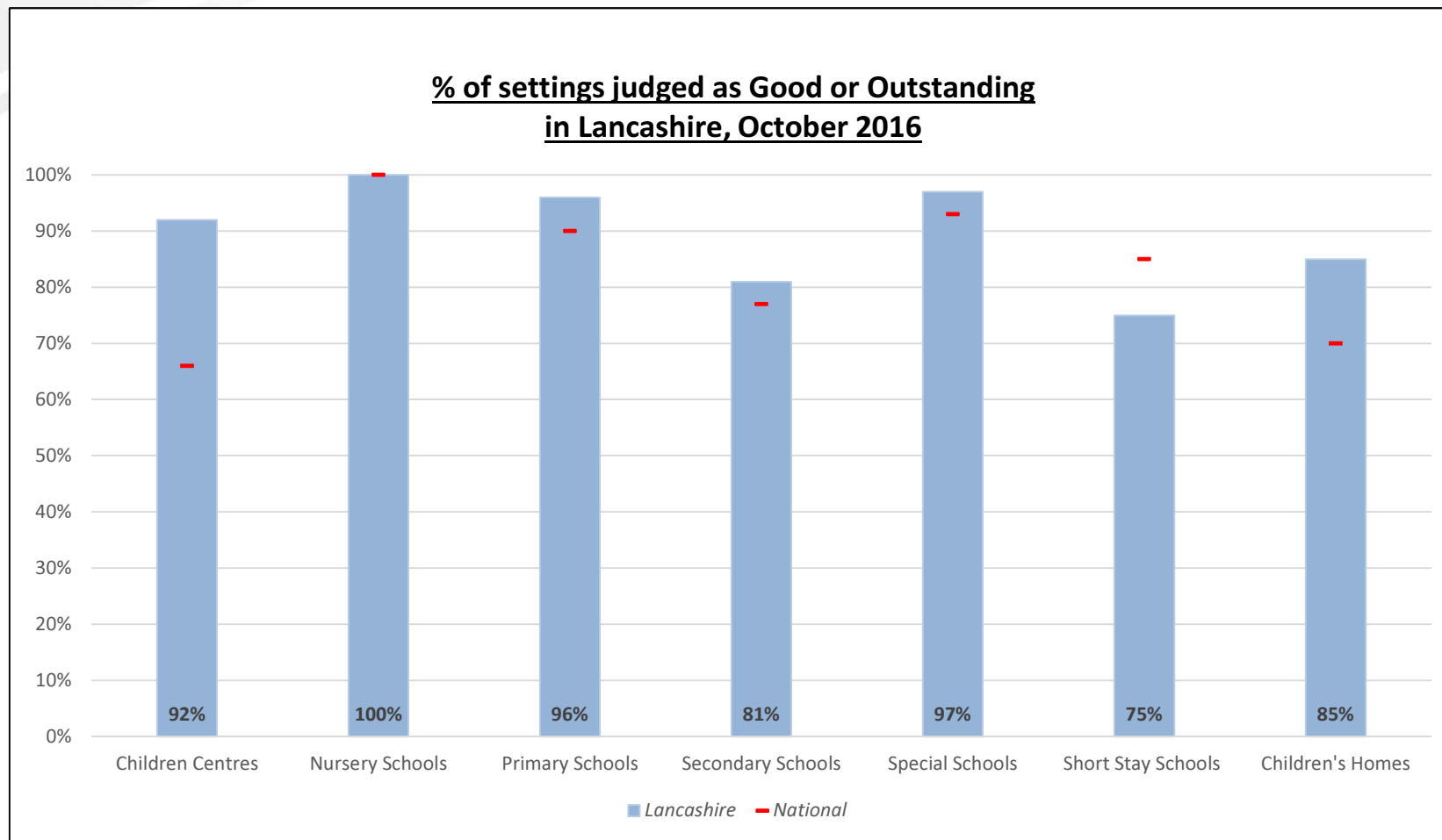
CLA rate per 10,000 in Lancashire,
2013/14 to Q2 2016/17



Inspection Facts

	Total Inspected (Oct 16)	Number Judged Good or Outstanding	Number judged as Inadequate
Children Centres	61	56 (92%)	0
Nursery Schools	24	24 (100%)	0
Primary Schools	480	460 (96%)	1
Secondary Schools	81	66 (81%)	2
Special Schools	30	29 (97%)	0
Short Stay Schools	8	6 (75%)	1
Children's Homes	13	11 (85%)	0

Inspection Facts



Performance Data - Strengths

Measure	Most Recent Performance	Rank (out of 152 LAs)	Quartile	Eng Ave
CLA Adopted in the Year	20% (2016)	33	2	15%
Long Term Placement Stability of CLA	74% (2015)*	21	1	68%
CLA Placed more than 20 miles away from Home	9% (2016)	22	1	14%
CLA – Level 4+ Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling at KS2	63% (2015)**	24	2	54%
CLA – Persistent Absentees	4.6% (2015)**	45	2	4.9%
CLA – Fixed Term Exclusions	8.3% (2014)**	30	1	10.3%
Emotional Health of CLA (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire)	13.5 (2015/16)	29	1	13.9
CLA Offending	4.0% (2015)*	9	1	5.0%
CLA – Level 4+ Maths at KS2	65% (2015)**	40	3	64%

**To be confirmed when validated figures for 2015/16 will be available*

***Validated figures for 2015/16 will be available in March 2017*

Possible Key Lines of Enquiry for Inspectors based on Performance Data

Measure	Current Perf	Prev Perf	Rank (out of 152 LAs)	Quartile	Eng Ave
CLA Rate Per 10,000	68.0 (2016)	65.0 (2015)	-	-	60.0
% of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	78.8% (2016)	68.0% (2015)*	121	4	83.0%
% of Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training	41.0% (2016)	37% (2015)*	131	4	49.0%
% of CLA achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C	18.4% (2015)**	17.9% (2014)*	45***	3	18.3%
% of CLA achieving 5 GCSEs A* - C including English & Mathematics	14.0% (2015)**	7.7% (2014)*	33****	4	13.8%

**Not comparable to previous year due to DfE definition change for the indicator*

***Validated figures for 2015/16 will be available in March 2017*

****Not out of 152 LAs – only 68 LAs provided data*

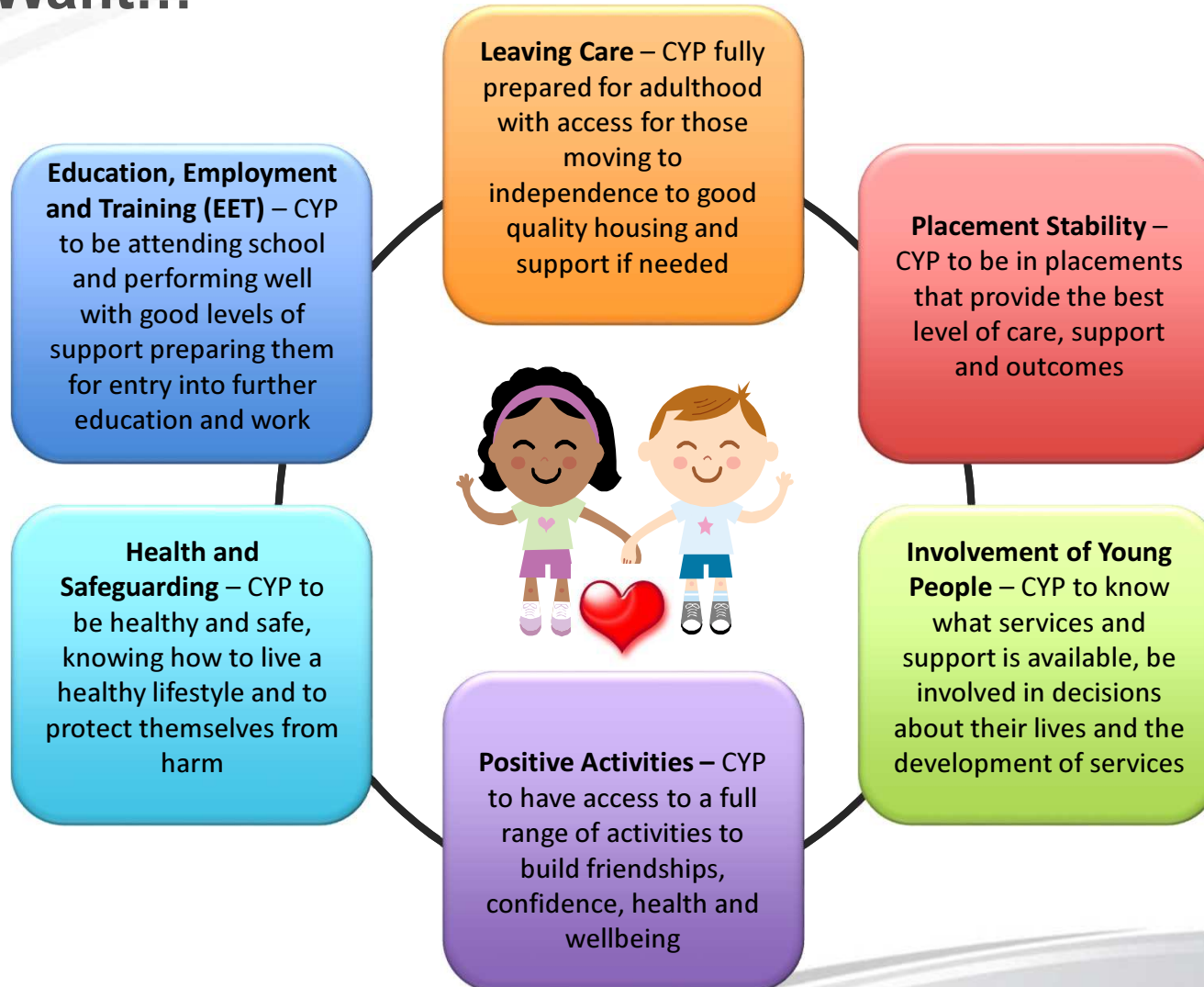
*****Not out of 152 LAs – only 43 LAs provided data*

Continuous Improvement

The Board will look to:

- Strengthen role of LINX (CiCC) and LINX Junior (primary aged children) and increase its membership.
- Maintain monitoring of all services available to CLA.
- Strengthen involvement of Elected Members including Reg 22 visits to Out of Borough children.
- Developing new ways of communicating with CLA.
- Identifying and linking in with partners on key issues e.g. LSCB – Challenge Panels?
- Promote and raise awareness of the Board.

Priorities - Corporate Parenting Board – We Want...



Questions?

CPB to LSCB

- How can we continue to support the LSCB?

LSCB to CPB – any questions?

For further information on the Corporate Parenting Board,
please visit the [website](#).

Corporate Parenting Board

2 February 2017

ACTIVITY DAY HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2016

Purpose of the report and Summary

To report to the Corporate Parenting Board on the Activity Day held on 5 November 2016.

Key Information

The Family Finders from Lancashire County Council Children Awaiting Adoption Team attended an event in Leeds. The event was an activity day arranged by Coram Baaf and it was an opportunity for prospective adopters to meet children who are waiting to be placed for adoption. Lancashire focussed on those harder to place children.

Children

Five children were taken to the activity day by Lancashire; three single children and a sibling group of two boys. All of the single children had additional and complex needs and the sibling group were two boys of a different ethnicity. We were unable to take any of our other harder to place children awaiting placements due to the make-up of the day and their more significant additional needs.

Outcomes

We had some positive interest for the sibling group from one set of prospective adopters, but the family later withdrew and went with a placement from within their own agency. The boys have since been linked with an in house family. The match was presented to Adoption panel on 11th January 17.

One of the single children had a chemistry meeting at the activity day and this link has since progressed with the match is being presented to Adoption Panel on 8th February 17.

Unfortunately the other two children did not receive any interest at the activity day. However on a positive note, following the activity day one of the children but has since progressed with a placement through link maker and for the 5th child, we have since had interest from an out of county family identified within a National Adoption Register profile exchange day that the family finders attended.

Georgine Lee, Senior Manager
Fostering, Adoption and Scayt+ Service, Lancashire County Council

20 January 2017

