

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20th April, 2017 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Sue Pryn (Chair)	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	-	Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	-	representing Foster Carers
Lynsey Evans	-	Fostering Forum
Amanda Hatton	-	Director of Children's Services
Paige	-	LINX Representative
Mark	-	LINX Representative
Michelle	-	LINX Representative
Sam	-	LINX Representative
Gavin	-	LINX Representative
Lisa	-	LINX Representative
Kieran	-	LINX Representative
Kris	-	LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	-	Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Amanda Mansfield	-	Independent Reviewing Officers
Francis Ashcroft	-	Agency Residential
Mark Cartridge	-	Agency - Fostering

Other Attendees

Rebecca Wilkinson	-	Barnardo's
Dylan Williams	-	Barnardo's
Mezz Lewis	-	Barnardo's
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	-	Barnardo's
Shagufta Khan	-	Lancashire Children's Society
Sana	-	Young Person
Hannah Peake	-	Lancashire County Council
Annette McNeil	-	Lancashire County Council
Matt Clayton	-	Coventry City Council
Jane Hylton	-	Lancashire County Council
Asma Pandor	-	Lancashire County Council

James Smith	-	Lancashire County Council
Cath Brooks	-	Lancashire County Council
Roxanne McAllister	-	Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	-	Lancashire County Council
	-	

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Beavers, Lord and Gibson, Mark Twiname, Catherine, Stela Stansfield, Mia Leyland, Helen Collinson (Department for Work and Pensions, (DWP)).

CC Prynne welcomed Amanda Hatton, Director of Children's Services to her first Board meeting. Amanda would be replacing Tony Morrissey on the Board and said that she was looking forward to working with the young people and hearing their views on the Services they access whilst in the care of Lancashire County Council (LCC).

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 2 February 2017

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

3. What our Elected Members have been doing (10 mins)

CC Prynne reported that she had attended the PROUD Awards which was a fantastic night, made even more special as young people had helped to decorate the room along with staff from LCC and foster carers. Special thanks were given to Hannah Peake, Natasha Wright and Sam Gorton for overseeing and organising the event. Congratulations were given to all the inspirational young people and care leavers who were winners and finalists and all those who were nominated for an award.

CC Prynne was taking part in a documentary on homelessness in the very near future with Nightsafe Charity. If any of the young people had any views on homelessness that they wished CC Prynne to take forward on the documentary, then please could they let her know as soon as possible.

CC Prynne had also met with Amanda Hatton regarding the Corporate Parenting Board and the things that it was doing and plans for the future.

CC Brindle echoed CC Prynne's comments and spoke about a particular award winner and their story and all the support that had been given to them and how grateful they were, which was lovely to hear.

CC Brindle also reported on an establishment in Burnley that had been renovated into flats for care leavers in a new build area which was very positive news.

4. Coventry City Council - Route 21 (30 mins)

Matt Clayton, Coventry City Council was welcomed to the meeting to talk about Route 21, which was the Children's Social Care Team made up of Social Workers, Personal Advisors, Senior Practitioners, Life Story Workers and Careers Advisors. They currently have around 270 care leavers and 100 children looked after. Matt presented the Powerpoint attached to the minutes.

Coventry City Council have used Facebook for around four years and it has been developed over time. It is managed by the day's Duty Workers for messages and used throughout the day by workers. Staff can access Facebook both on laptops and phones. The Team Manager has oversight of the account.

Facebook is used is to remind young people of appointments, visits or events, chat and remind young people of new events or courses which are happening. Celebrate achievements of young people and recognise how they are doing. Raise awareness about local or national issues care leavers may face and hold competitions at the same time as gaining feedback about the service which allows young people to win prizes. Approximately 15-20 young people are in touch per day on the site.

Staff and young people have found huge benefits to using Facebook, including cost savings and also Ofsted have commented and how well it works.

The Board felt that this would be beneficial to Lancashire and agreed that the Communications Team would look at this and make it Lancashire friendly and discuss the way forward with Amanda Hatton. Roxanne McAllister and Cath Brooks, Leaving Care Team Managers also saw huge benefits to having a Facebook page for the three areas in Lancashire, with one area piloting it first before rolling it out to the other two areas.

- Actions:**
- i) Matt Clayton agreed to share Route 21 Facebook Policy with Amanda Hatton.
 - ii) Amanda Hatton to discuss further with LCC Communications Team re taking this forward and creating a Facebook page for Children Looked After and Care Leavers and also involve LINX.
 - iii) Agreed that the East area Care Leavers Forum will pilot it first and Cath Brooks, Leaving Care Team Manager, East will lead on this.
 - iv) Agreed that Amanda Hatton/LCC Communications Team bring an update to the next Board meeting in June 2017 on the Facebook page.

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

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX tabled a detailed account of what they had been doing since the last CPB meeting on 2 February 2017 and this is attached to these minutes.

Young Inspectors Update

A visit had been carried out to Barnardo's Fostering Agency and the report had been circulated to the Manager and LCC. Further details can be found in the attached presentation. Young Inspectors carry out inspections in fostering agencies, LCC residential and private residential establishments and their aim is for LINX to carry out six and POWAR to undertake four visits per year.

Fran Ashcroft, Private Residential representative stated that they had been inspected and following comments from the Young Inspectors were revising their booklets and found the inspection very useful indeed.

Amanda Hatton requested to visit a Young Inspectors meeting.

- Actions:**
- i) Young Inspector's Team to invite Amanda Hatton to a future meeting.
 - ii) Sam Gorton to send previous Young Inspector's reports to Amanda Hatton.

Feedback on Performance Report

Comments from young people on the Performance Report were detailed in the attached presentation.

With regards children missing from care and the statistics recorded on LCS (LiquidLogic Children's System), Amanda Hatton explained that the reason for recording this on LCS was that all figures regarding children in care were in one place and issues can be triggered from recorded information. Statistics from LCS were reviewed every week by Amanda Hatton so any issues raised could be dealt with immediately.

In relation to 14% of CLA achieving 5 A*-C grades in GCSE's, young people commented that 'more support was needed for young people at this stage'. CC Prynne commented that the Board was going to look again at Pupil Premium as there was a concern nationally on how it was being spent. It was noted that foster carers need to be better informed on how pupil premium should and could be spent. Also CLA are taken out of school to have meetings with Social Workers, IROs etc and this should be avoided. Meetings should be held where the young person wants to meet and this will also help with engagement from them.

- Actions:**
- i) Roxanne McAllister and Cath Brooks to feed back to Locality Managers about concerns young people have raised regarding review meetings being held in school.
 - ii) Sam Gorton to invite Audrey Swann to a future CPB meeting to give an update on educational achievements and Pupil Premium for CLA.

Suitable accommodation will never be 100% as some young people are on remand, in prison or hospital. Some young people are homeless also but this is only a very small number and the reason for this is that they live chaotic lifestyles and do not want to engage with Services. LCC still monitor homeless young people until 21 years old and know if they are in touch with services/charities. Data had also improved significantly, which made services more confident in tracking young people.

CC Prynne raised concern that young people in secure settings were supposed to receive a visit from their Social Worker every two months and this was not happening.

Action: Roxanne McAllister agreed to follow this up with all localities and feedback to CC Prynne on visits that were and were not taking place in secure settings.

Amanda Hatton would become the Chair of the Supported Accommodation Learning Offer (SALO) Board within the next few months and one of the projects they are currently looking at is called Project Search which will be a 12 month work placement in various settings which will allow a young person to be ready to start work following the placement. This has a high success rate nationally and LCC's Programme Office are looking too start this around the middle of May, so this will help with the NEET figures for care leavers.

Information on financial support for care leavers wishing to go to University was available in the new Rights and Entitlements leaflet. Further work needed to be carried out to encourage care leavers to attend University and offer support/guidance to them from other care leavers who were already attending.

ASDAN – Living Independently Short Course Pilot

Jane Hylton, LCC informed the Board about the accredited course which enabled young people to be better prepared for living independently and to be able to make informed decisions about where they lived, the type of accommodation and to have the resilience and knowledge for a successful transition to independence. Currently there were three pilots being run in Lancashire – one with a foster carer, one in residential care at Crestmoor and a group work one with Barnardo's/Personal Adviser. The course could be adapted to individual needs as identified in the pathway plan and could be used informally over a period of time.

For the group work, young people spoke about their module on healthy/not healthy food choices and that they had to plan four different types of healthy two course meals for under £5 per head and then make it for 15 people which would then be used as an evaluation, which is then accredited and can be used in the future when looking to find employment/housing.

Asma Pandor and James Smith attended from Crestmoor to inform the Board on how they had adapted their module and gave examples eg crosswords, word searches, all with key words young people needed to be aware of. They were very positive about the pilot and spoke about how young people were enjoying undertaking it.

It was felt that Parent and Child placements would find this a useful too also and also at Sure Start Centres, especially around the parenting module.

Young people felt that it should not just be for care leavers but for every young person as they all need to learn about basic life skills which are taught in school.

The Board agreed that this should be a requirement for all Care Leavers and foster carers both in-house and private and that training would be required also on ASDAN.

There should be a tick box on LCS to say that a young person had undertaken the course and ASDAN had been discussed at their review meetings.

The project needs to be agreed at LCC's Senior Management Team (SMT), so this can be rolled out to all CLA who are preparing to leave care. If approved at SMT then it should also be introduced to the Lancashire Association of Secondary Headteachers (LASH).

Action: Tony Morrissey to present a report on ASDAN – Living Independently Short Course to SMT as soon as possible and that CPB recommend that SMT approve it.

Two young people attended the launch of a report by The Prince's Trust summarising the findings of the Young Researchers' work as part of The Trust's From Care to Independence (FC2I) Project. The report can be found [here](#).

LINX then showed part of a film (from 13-17 mins) called From Care to Chaos. A link to the film can be found [here](#).

The Board requested that statistics on Care Leavers who are 'staying put' be shared with the Board. It was also felt that more training was required for foster carers on understanding the Staying Put Policy and with private foster carers also.

The Board also asked as to whether information on the Staying Put Policy is given to new foster carers.

- Actions:**
- i) Amanda Hatton to request statistics on Care Leavers who are using the Staying Put Policy and feedback to the Board.
 - ii) Lynsey Evans agreed to clarify as to whether information on the Staying Put Policy is given to new foster carers.

6. Research on Children Looked After and Care Leavers (20 mins)

This item was not discussed as the presenter was absent from the meeting.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 15 June 2017 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Duke of Lancaster Room – Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

9. Update on the New Beginnings Event

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

Who are we?

We are Route 21.

Route 21 is a children's social care team made up of Social Workers, Personal Advisors, Senior Practitioners, Life Story Workers and careers advisors. We are part Coventry City Council, a city in the midlands.

The service works with approximately 370 young people, around 100 LAC and the remaining 270 are care leavers.

We work together to prepare young people for independence and adulthood.



What we do well...

As a service both staff and young people supported by Route 21 are in agreement that the use of Facebook works extremely well in supporting them with their day to day needs.

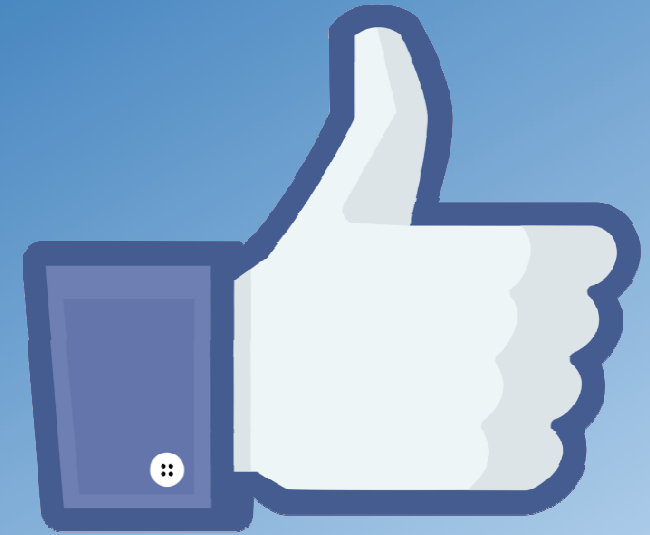


How staff use Facebook

The service is set up on Facebook by having a 'Profile'. This is the way that individuals normally interact with Facebook and is different from an organisational page.

This way both young people or Route 21 can initiate a friend request.

As a staff team no single member of staff is in charge of managing Facebook, every morning and throughout the day it is checked by the days Duty Workers for messages, and used throughout the day by workers. Staff can access Facebook both on laptops and phones.



www.facebook.com/routetwen

How we use Facebook together

Remind

It's a quick way of finding young people of appointments, visits or events



Chat

We use Facebook messenger to communicate



Promote events

Remind Young People of new events or courses coming up

FREE healthy cooking course

@Route 21

Every Wednesday

1.30pm - 3.30pm

Come cook with us!

Wednesday 18th Jan - Wednesday 22nd Feb



CHL Foundation



Cook & Eat Well in Coventry



Improve your cooking skills, meet new people and share recipe tips and ideas!

How we use Facebook together

celebrate
celebrate the
achievements of
young people
and recognise how
well they are doing



Raise
Awareness
About local or national
issues Care Leavers
may face today



Hold
competitions
To gain feedback
about the service and
allow young people to
win prizes

WIN
£25 Odeon Gift Card!

To enter, inbox our Facebook page with your answer to the following questions.
Or reply through your worker.

Coventry City Council is reviewing all their buildings. To help us understand how our office space helps you (reception, computer room, kitchen, meeting rooms), answer these questions:

1. What do you like about coming to the Route 21 office?
2. What don't you like?
3. If we could do one thing to make it better, what would it be?

Closing date and Prize Draw on 21st December.

*** Competition applies to Coventry Care Leavers only. Only genuine answers will be accepted. ***

taff views

It makes the job so much easier now, we were wasting so much time before trying to track down young people

Is a way several young people have managed to get back in touch and get help with their education

She opens up and says a lot more to me on Facebook than she does in person

Sometimes you don't want to look at Facebook in case you found out something you'd rather you didn't know

Sometimes young people can be really abusive on Facebook or say things to get a reaction

Young people's views

I can use Facebook when I don't have any minutes on my phone

I didn't want Route 21 looking at my page so decline the friend request

There is always someone online on the Facebook chat which they respond to very quick

Someone to help out due to your PA/social Worker not being in office

Sometimes I don't check messages because so many staff check it

Facebook page is good when you're struggling to get hold of your PA

I don't always like it when my PA calls me, its quick and easy, I'm always on Facebook. Staff helped me get accommodation when I didn't have time to come to the office.

It's a reliable page and there has been a massive improvement with the services I get, I can see what's going on

Questions....

We now welcome any **questions** for staff or young people?

What do you think about using Facebook as a way to communicate better together?





What we have been doing since the last Corporate Parenting Board

Date	Event	Number of young people
7 th February	LINX Media group meeting	1 member of LINX
13 th February	LINX Primary Session	2 members of LINX
15 th February	Barnardo's Voice It group meet to review participation in Barnardo's Lancashire	1 member of LINX
15 th February	Care Leavers Forum meet to begin ASDAN project	5 Care Leavers
15 th February	Post Ofsted Improvement Board	3 members of LINX
17 th February	Young Inspectors visit Barnardo's fostering agency	1 member of LINX and 3 members of POWAR
22 nd February	Fostering and Adoption Group meets in the East	7 members of LINX
28 th February	LINX attend speed interviews for prospective social workers	3 members of LINX
3 rd March	PROUD Awards	19 members of LINX
7 th March	LINX media group meeting to look at NHS rebranding	8 members of LINX
14 th March	Young Inspectors meet to write the report for Barnardo's fostering agency	8 members of LINX
15 th March	Care Leavers Forum meet to continue work on the ASDAN cooking module	6 care leavers
21 st March	LINX attend speed interviews for prospective social workers	4 members of LINX
22 nd March	Fostering and Adoption Group meet in the East	6 members of LINX
23 rd March	LINX visit a Foster Carer support group in Bacup	2 members of LINX
28 th March	LINX attend Lancashire Participation Network Meeting and meet with Amanda Hatton, Director of Children's Services	10 members of LINX

3 rd April	LINX attend speed interviews for prospective social workers	4 members of LINX
4 th April	Princes Trust Care Leaver Research Launch	2 Care Leavers
7 th April	Young Inspectors meet to produce recommendations for Barnardo's Fostering Agency	1 member of LINX and 4 members of POWAR
11 th April	LINX meet with Barnardo's Lancashire Services to plan the West Regional Participation Conference	2 members of LINX
12 th April	LINX attend Participation Contract Annual Review meeting with commissioners from LCC	1 member of LINX
13 th April	Children's Rights Alliance for England Conference	1 member of LINX and 1 member of POWAR
19 th April	Voice Over meeting – Young Person Post-Ofsted improvement board group	
19 th April	Care Leavers Forum	



A member of LINX has been awarded a Diana award for all the hard work he has put in with LINX and the difference this has made to the lives of Looked After Children





Children Looked After Young Inspectors Update April 2017



April 2017

There are currently 16 trained members of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors Team

The Young Inspectors visit

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

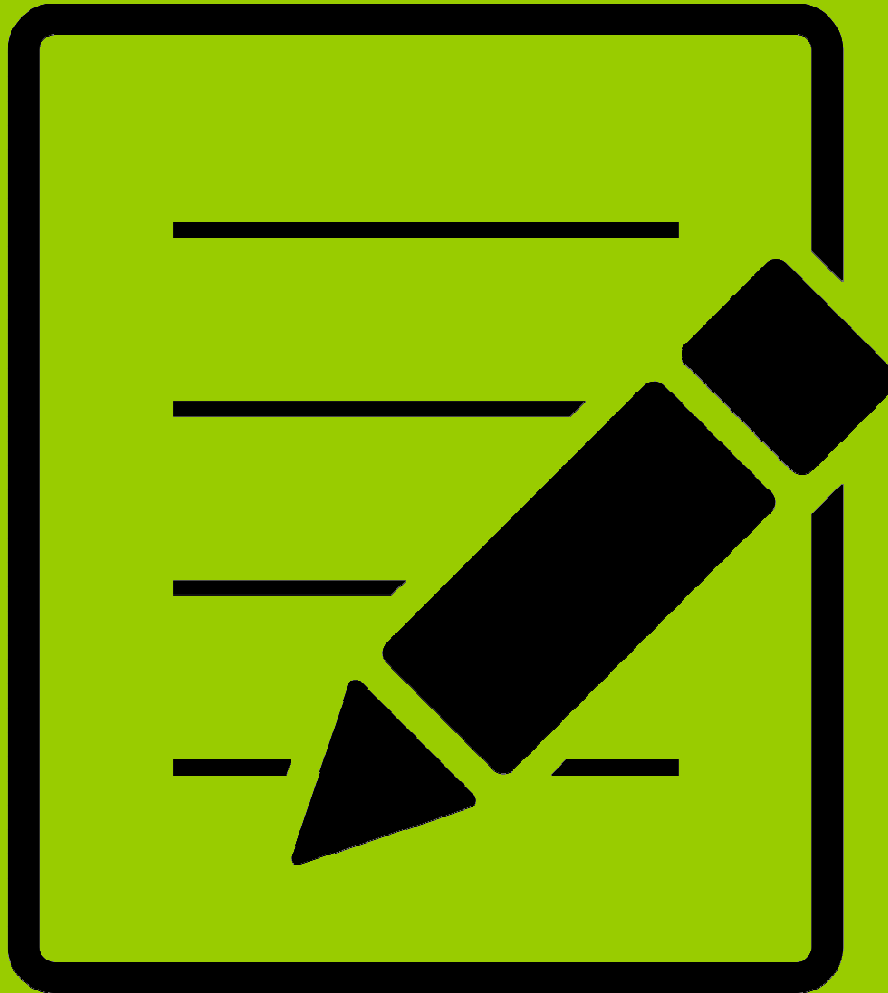
Since the last Corporate Parenting Board Meeting the young inspectors have all come together to meet three times



In their meetings they have written the reports following a visit to Barnardo's Fostering Agency and returned them to the managers and to the local authority.



Recommendations to the residential units included



Young people to have the direct contact details of Barnardo's Fostering Agency so they can contact them independently of their foster carer if they wish to



Make sure foster carers give their young people pocket money then they can buy the things they want and it builds life skills



Foster carers to ask young people what they want to do in their free time



The staff talked about a few priority areas and they were good. We think the child should be a priority too so they are at the centre of all other priorities and decisions



The Young Inspectors are currently organising more inspections for the next few months and will be conducting revisits of units/agencies they have already inspected to ensure the recommendations have been put in place

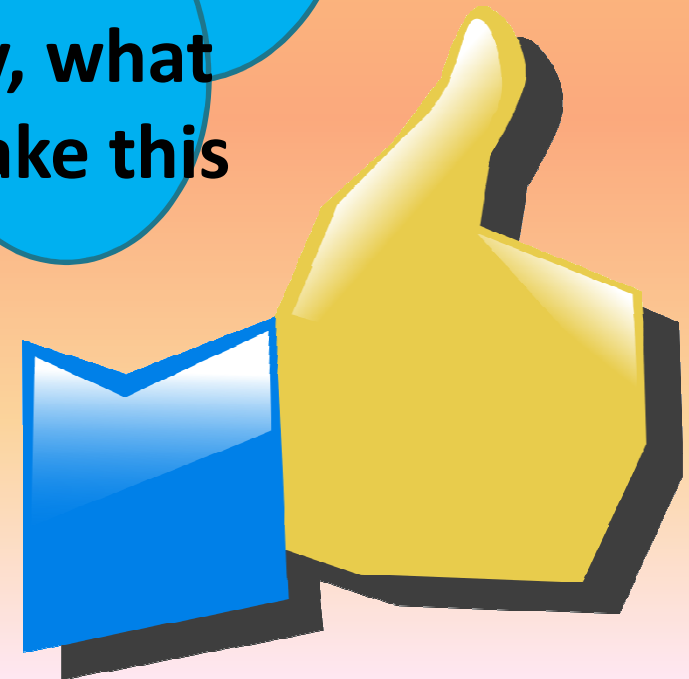


Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

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

Children looked after in Lancs has increased in the last 12 months to 1,864

Young people say, what can happen to make this go down?



**Numbers of Children
Looked After in
Lancashire are less
than our statistical
neighbours in the
North West**



**Re-referral
rates have
stayed low**



**Re-referral rates
have stayed low
Young people
say, how did it
decreased?**



**'5 out of 100
children looked
after have moved
twice or more' This
is good and those
5% may have
moved as they
don't like their
placement.**



'66% of looked after children are in a long and stable placement'

Looked after children need a safe and encouraging place to live.

This could be to do with foster carers offering short term placements?



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**Children missing
from care are now
recorded using LCS –
please can you
explain this to us?**





**76 children looked
after missing from
Lancashire is 'bad'**

**14% of children
looked after achieving
5 A*-C in GCSE's
'more support is
needed for young
people at this stage'**



**14% of children looked
after achieving 5 A*-C
in GCSE's**

**'more support is
needed for young
people at this stage'
YP say, how can this
be improved?**



Young people feel that they would withdraw themselves out of lessons if not able to cope or speak to someone who they are comfortable with. How can this improve?



Children who are looked after are pulled out of lessons by social workers. One YP missed an exam because of this. How can this change?



**5 permanent exclusions
of children looked after
'Can we compare this to
exclusions all children
and young people, and
why has this increased?'**



**Number of fixed term
exclusions has reduced and
is within target**



**79% of children looked after have an up to date dental assessment.
Care leavers ask, do they have a choice of dental care?**



**More children that ever
are being provided with a
permanent home under
adoption, special
guardianship order or
residence orders**



Care leavers ask, what is counted as suitable accommodation and how will 100% success be reached?



**51% of care leavers are in
education, training or
employment
'Even though this is less
than the national average
of 88% we think this is
good'**



37 care leavers are studying at university.

‘This is good but we feel that whilst at university care leavers don’t have enough emotional or financial support’



The End



Living
Independently
Short Course

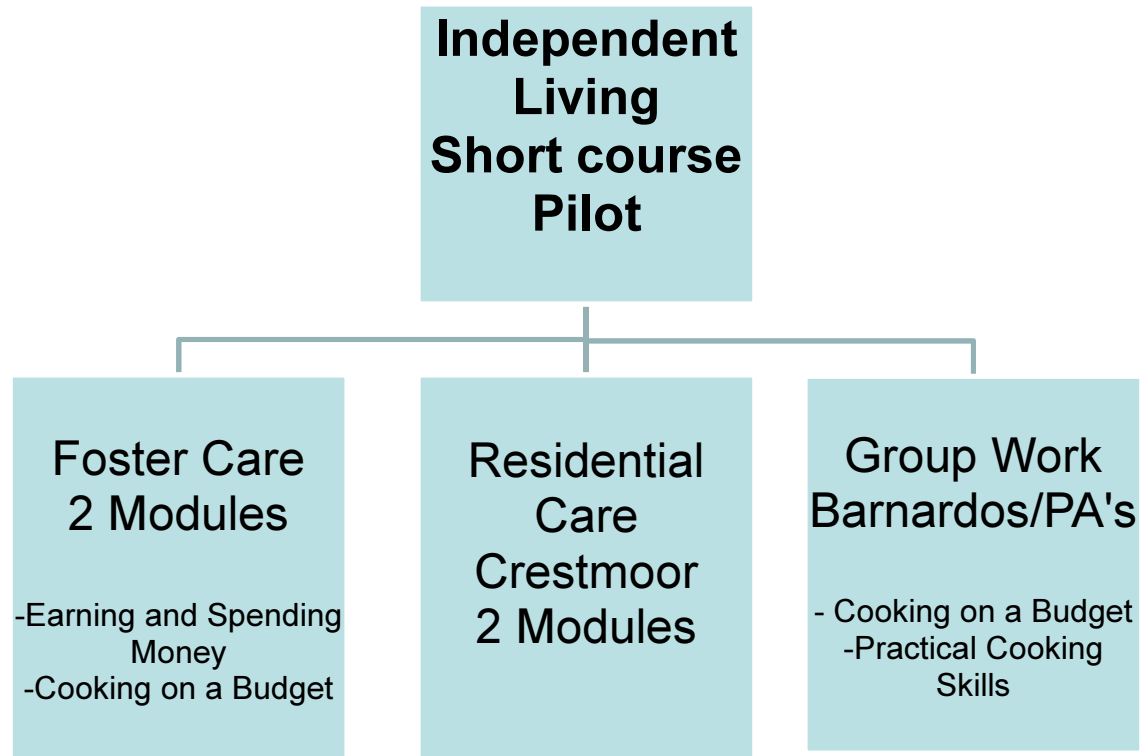
Why offer this?

- For care experienced young people to be better prepared for living independently and to be able to make informed decisions about where they live, the type of accommodation and to have the resilience and knowledge for a successful transition to independence.

How will it be used?

- Introduced to Young person at age 16 at the beginning of their Pathway Plan and the Introduction of a Personal Adviser
- Modular approach meaning it can be tailored to individual needs as identified in Pathway plan
- Can be Peer led or Social Worker, Personal Adviser or Carer led
- Can be used informally over a period of time

The Pilot



Benefits of using ASDAN

- Accredited
- Utilises a range of skills – e.g. maths, problem solving, teamwork etc.
- Flexible
- Meets individual needs
- Portfolio of evidence

