Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 27th July, 2017 at 1.30 pm in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Ian - Lancashire County Council

Brown (Chair)

County Councillor - Lancashire County Council

Andrew Gardiner

County Councillor - Lancashire County Council

Phillippa Williamson

County Councillor - Lancashire County Council

Stephen Clarke

Jane Simpson - representing Foster Carers

Catherine - representing Adoption

Amanda Hatton - Director of Children's Services, LCC

Sam R LINX Representative Bradlev LINX Representative Sam W LINX Representative LINX Representative Kris Michelle LINX Representative Igra LINX Representative Nicole LINX Representative LINX Representative Liam LINX Representative Ellie LINX Representative Natasha

Mark - LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Audrey Swann - Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked

After Children

Amanda Mansfield - Independent Reviewing Officers

Francis Ashcroft - Agency Residential Mark Cartridge - Agency - Fostering

Dylan Williams - Barnardo's

Other Attendees

Kirsty Clarke - Lancashire Children's Rights Society

Jane Hylton - Leaving Care, LCC

Barbara Bath - Fostering, Adoption, Residential and

YOT Team, LCC

Carole Bateson - Department of Work and Pensions
Maria Stephens - Children's Rights Alliance for England

Two Members of Staff - Sheffield City Council CPB Four Young People - Sheffield City Council CPB

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from Debbie Ross, Stela Stansfield and Nicola Bamford.

The Chair also welcomed six members (two staff and four young people) from Sheffield City Council's Corporate Parenting Board who were observing the meeting.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 15 June 2017

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

3. LINX Activities

LINX delivered a Care Leaver Sanctions activity, where the Board was split into three groups and a different amount of money was given to each table and they had to use it for electricity, TV licence, water rates, insurance, transport, food etc. One table was given nothing, as there benefits had been sanctioned. The aim of this activity was to show how hard it was to manage finances and even more so when benefits have been sanctioned and in some cases, no family to turn to for help.

The Board then took part in a Care Leaver Sanctions guiz which is attached.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

There was nothing to report on this item, as the members had only just been appointed to the Board.

5. Update from the Director of Children's Services (DCS)

Ofsted

They have recently carried out a two day monitoring visit on Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers and there has been really good feedback. They reported back on the young people they had met and said that they were the most inspirational they had ever met and that Lancashire was very lucky to work with them. Ofsted were also impressed with the staff too however, did comment that further work is still required on retention of social workers. Ofsted will be back again in November 2017 on another monitoring visit, this time focusing on Children in Need (CiN). A massive thanks was given to everyone involved, especially the young people.

Residential Services

Ofsted had also undertaken an inspection of Residential Services as there had been concerns previously. This time The Grange was given a rating of 'Good'.

Amanda Hatton also visited Brighton in connection with the Peer Review. They will return the visit in October and will want to meet some young people.

Boing Boing

Amanda and a group of young people are going to visit Boing Boing a University of Brighton project working in Blackpool on support to young people.

Action: Amanda Hatton to feedback at the next CPB meeting in December

on the progress of Boing Boing for Lancashire.

Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers

Care Leavers who live in Lancashire should all be receiving letters shortly with regards the Council Tax Exemption that was agreed by the Deputy Leader in May 2016. The Council Tax will be backdated to April 2017.

However, if a care leaver lives outside of Lancashire but are a Lancashire Care Leaver ie living in Blackpool, they are not exempt as the District Council has not agreed to this. Amanda Hatton will consider the options for this and report to CPB on next steps.

Action: Amanda Hatton to feedback to the Board on the next steps for

Council Tax Exemption for Lancashire Care Leavers living outside

of Lancashire.

6. Educational Attainments

Audrey Swann presented the attached PowerPoint to the Board. It was noted that how attainment is measured now has changed significantly. Primary age groups and up to the end of Key Stage 3 (KS3), achievement is now based on Age Related Expectation (ARE) – the National Curriculum levels have gone. In Secondary (to the end of KS4) 5 A*-C is no longer the measure. Attainment is now measured by Attainment 8 – a score given for grades achieved in 8 subjects. English and Maths scores are doubled. Unfortunately it is not possible to compare attainment and progress with last year's results as the measures have changed so much, however Lancashire also measure how CLA are doing at school in other ways ie progress with learning, attendance at school, wellbeing, behaviour and risk of being excluded. Each pupil is given a colour for each of the measures: green - doing really well, amber - not guite there but still on track and red - concern. Pupils who are red will be seen every month by the Service, who will also speak to the Designated Teacher and put plans in place. A notable issue is around the Maths attainments at KS2, and one of the major problems is moving school placements, as Maths is not taught the same in every school.

This is something that is being looked into. Foster carers also need to ensure that the children they are caring for are taking eight subjects as they carry scores, if not they will be marked '0'. If CLA are in special needs provision, they can still take GCSEs and foster carers should also be looking at young people pursing these.

With regards the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), each local authority is allocated funding based on £1,900 per CLA. The Virtual Headteacher has to manage and allocate the funding which has to be based on needs that are identified in the personal education plan (PEP). There is also a section on the PEP about what the impact will be and then on next PEP what the impact has been.

Action: Audrey Swann to ensure that more clarity is given to schools on PPG and high need and that schools can apply for both.

The Headteacher's report is written annually, and Audrey agreed to send this to LINX and then go and meet with them to discuss it further.

Action: Audrey Swann to meet with LINX, following the Headteacher's Report being sent to them.

7. Children's Rights Service

Kirsty Clarke presented the attached PowerPoint to the Board and they noted the Annual Report that was attached to the agenda.

There was an issue raised as to whether care placement issues that were received by the Children's Rights Service were fed back to Lancashire County Council? Kirsty confirmed that all issues were relayed to Social Workers (SWs) and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs). The Children's Rights Service cannot however, influence a decision as it is the funding authority that makes the care placement decision.

8. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)

Carole Bateson, Service Delivery Coach from the DWP was welcomed to the meeting. Young people had requested prior to the meeting, further information on when sanctions were put in place. In most cases Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions will be four weeks, a persistent JSA claimant may find some of those climbing to 13 weeks. Three years is rarely used and mostly in fraudulent cases. These sanctions will also stop housing benefit claims. From a sanction being put in place Hardship can be applied for, if granted, this will usually be a payment of 40% of benefit for the rest of the sanction period, but will put housing benefits back in payment. An appointment will need to be booked and a form collected for that appointment along with a bank statement/mini statement dated for the day of the appointment.

Income Support claims are slightly different and a phone call followed by a letter for failing to attend (FTA) will be done, the letter gives the Care Leaver eight days to contact the DWP. If there is no contact at eight days the sanction will then be put on benefits, it will be lifted when the Care Leaver has contacted the DWP and attended another appointment.

Carole reiterated once again that young people have to tell the DWP that they are Care Leavers and that the DWP are there to work with them not against them. Benefits are the young person's responsibility and to ensure they receive what they are entitled to, they have to tell the DWP regarding their circumstances.

A meeting is planned with Lancashire County Council and Tracey Ellemore for 7 September 2017, to start working in partnership with the DWP and put protocols in place to support Care Leavers, and liaise with Social Workers and Leaving Care Workers on supporting young people in the meetings with DWP.

Carole was thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

9. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council)

Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE)

Mark (Care Leaver) and Maria Stephens (CRAE) discussed the early stages of the project that CRAE are working on which was a report to the United Nations, before going to Geneva to speak directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Mark and Maria outlined the campaign so far and how the CRAE have decided on using Homelessness and B&B accommodation as the campaign topic. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations 2016 are here.

Top Tips for Social Workers Video

The Board were shown a video on Being a Good Corporate Parent that is now being shown to all new Social Workers, when they start at the Social Work Academy. The Board felt that this video was a fantastic tool and that it would be good to be shown nationally as well as within the Council to make all employees and Elected Members aware of what a good corporate parent is.

Action: Amanda Hatton agreed to look further into allowing this video to be shared and used outside the Authority.

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX presented the PowerPoint attached and there were no issues arising from it.

LINX Update

LINX presented the slide attached on what it has been doing since the last CPB meeting and there were no issues arising from it.

10. Any Other Business

Sheffield City Council thanked the Board for allowing them to attend the meeting and will feed back to their Board the benefits they felt by having young people attend the meeting and present items on the agenda.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 7 September 2017 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room – Committee Room 'C', County Hall, Preston. This is the young person led meeting and will be chaired by LINX.

Care Leaver Sanctions Quiz

The following questions relate to the figures for England from The Children's Society Report 'The Cost of Being Care Free'

June 2016

Between October 2013 and September 2015 how many sanctions were applied to care leavers benefits?

A) 4390

B) 980

C) 2560

If a care leaver was late or missed an interview with their job centre advisor and this was the first time this had happened, how many weeks would their jobseekers allowance be sanctioned for?

A) 1 week

B) 2 weeks

C) 4 weeks

How many weeks would the sanction be applied for if it was the third time the care leaver was late or missed the appointment?

A) 13 weeks

B) 3 weeks

C) 9 weeks

Housing benefit is a sanctionable benefit

A) True

B) False

C) Not Sure

Housing benefit is sometimes sanctioned as Jobseeker's Allowance can be a passport to receiving Housing Benefit, so when Jobseeker's Allowance is removed, the Housing Benefit is incorrectly removed too

Of the 4390 care leavers who were sanctioned, how many chose to challenge those sanctions?

A) 45%

B) 70%

C) 16%

How many of these sanctions were overturned?

A) 22%

B) 62%

C) 32%



Our evidence shows at least

3,960

sanctions have been applied to care leavers since October 2013

For every 39 adults in the general working age population how many sanctions are applied?

A)3

B) 1

C) 6

For every 39 care leavers how many sanctions are applied?

A)3

B) 1

C) 6

Care leavers are three
times more likely to have
had a benefit sanction
applied than the general
population

We would like to share these two videos with you about the impact of benefit sanctions on care leavers

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37363544

1. Between October 2013 and September 2015 how many sanctions were applied to care leavers benefits?

A) 4390

2. If a care leaver was late to or missed an interview with their job centre advisor how many weeks would their jobseekers allowance be sanctioned for?

C) 4 weeks

3. This applies to the first occasion, how many weeks would the sanctioned be applied if it was the third occasion?

A) 13 weeks

4. Housing benefit is a sanctionable benefit?

B) False

5. How many care leavers chose to challenge those sanctions?

C) 16%

6. Of those that were challenged how many sanctions were overturned?

B) 62%

7. For every 39 adults in the general working age population how many sanctions are applied?

B) 1

8. For every 39 care leavers how many sanctions are applied?

A)3

Page	16
------	----

Promoting the Education of Children Looked After in Lancashire



Lancashire Virtual School for CLA



How attainment is measured?

Primary age groups and up to the end of KS3:

National Curriculum levels have gone:

achievement now based on:

Age Related Expectation: ARE



How attainment is measured?

Secondary- end of Key Stage 4:

5 A-C* no longer the measure.



Attainment now measured by:

Attainment 8: a score given for grades achieved in 8 subjects. English and Maths scores are doubled.



How progress is measured?

- Primary: progress measured from end of KS1 (AGE 7) to end of KS2 (AGE 11): Reading, Writing, Maths
- Secondary: progress measured from end of KS2 (AGE 11) to end of KS4 (AGE 16): in 8 subjects- called PROGRESS 8.





This means we are not able to compare attainment and progress with last years results as the measures have changes so much.

But in Lancashire we also measure how our looked after children are doing at school in other ways too.



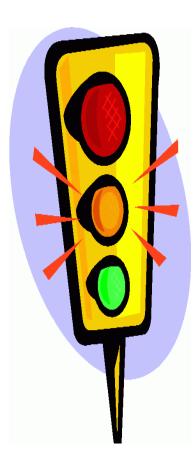
How are we doing?

We measure each of our pupils for:

- Progress with learning
- Attendance at school
- Well Being.
- Behaviour

Each pupil is given a colour for each of the measures:

- Green- doing really well
- Amber-not quite there but still on track.
- Red big concerns





Our primary pupils:

In 2015-16: the % who were doing really well or on track were:

Progress: 85.8%



Attendance: 97%



Well Being: 97%



Behaviour: 94%







Our secondary pupils.

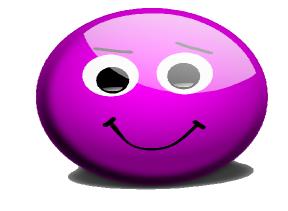
• In 2015-16 the % who were doing really well or on track were:

• Progress 84.4%

• Attendance 86%

• Well Being 86.8%

• Behaviour 88.4%





Key Stage 1 Attainment

County

The % percentage of our CLA who achieved Age Related Expectations.

		Lancashire CLA pupils	Lancashire All Pupils	England CLA pupils	
	Reading	50%	74%	49.8%	
	Writing	42%	65%	37%	
?	Mathematics	42%	73%	45.6%	
				La	ncashire

Key Stage 2 Attainment.

The % of our CLA who achieved age related expectations.

		Lancashire 2016 CLA pupils	Lancashire All pupils 2016	England CLA pupils 2016	North West Ave- CLA
	Reading	47%	66%	41%	43%
	Writing	48%	74%	46%	47%
	Mathematics	36%	70%	41%	45%
				Lar	ncasnire

Key Stage 4 Attainment

CLA Cohort	Lancs Ave A8 score.	Nat Ave A8 score	Lanc 5 A-C (E+M)	Nat 5 A-C (E+M)
All Y 11 CLA	19.4	20.9	9.1%	12.1%
OC2 ALL	22.0	22.8	12.3%	17.5%
OC2 NOT SEN	25.4	25.2	18.5%	18.6%
OC2 SEN	18.4	19.8	3.8%	7.7%



Key points: KS1

- ❖ Attainment in Writing for Lancashire CLA is significantly higher than the national average - 5% higher. ✓
- Attainment in Maths is 3.6% lower than national average and 2% lower in Science. ?
- The gap between the attainment of Lancashire CLA as compared with Lancashire children who are not looked after remains large.

Key Points: KS2

- ❖ The attainment of CLA in Lancashire is higher than the national average for CLA in Reading (+6%), Writing (+2%), and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (+ 2%). ✓
- Attainment for CLA in Maths is 5% below the national average for CLA.
- The gap between the attainment of Lancashire CLA as compared with Lancashire children who are not looked after remains high and of concern.

Key Points: KS4

- Lancashire CLA (all Year 11) have achieved slightly less well than the average CLA Attainment 8 score and 5 A*-C(EM) nationally.
- However Lancashire CLA who do not have special educational needs have achieved slightly better average Attainment 8 scores than the same group nationally.
- Many of our pupils were educated in alternative provision which often does not offer 8 subjects.

Pupil Premium Grant. Quick Facts



County

- Called PPG+
- Funding to schools to promote progress and attainment for looked after children.
- Each LA is allocated funding based on £1,900 per CLA.
- The Virtual Head Teacher has to manage and allocate the funding. Has to be based on needs that are identified in the Personal education Plan (PEP)
- Any unspent PPG+ goes back to the DFE at end of year.

 Lancashire

PPG+ in Lancashire

- Allocated in 3 payments of £500 each termwhen PEP is complete.
- Special section on the PEP for use of PPG+.
- The other £400 is held in a 'High Need' pot.
- If the PEP identifies additional funding needed to meet a particular need for a CLA, school can apply to the high needs fund.
- For the last 2 years Lancashire has not returned any PPG+.

How schools can use the PPG+

- Can be 'pooled' to fund something that benefits all their CLA.
- Support staffing.



- Extra tuition.
- Resources –books, learning aids, equipment i.e. lap tops, IPADs.
- Interventions- counselling, play and art therapy, anger management
 Lancashire

High Needs Pot.

- One to one teaching.
- Support staff.
- Assessments.
- Counselling, other specialist support.
- Alternative education.
- Equipment/software.

Schools have to complete a form to say how the extra funding has helped the pupil- IMPACT.





Other spend from PPG+

- The Virtual School has to provide training for designated teachers and other school staffsmall costs of venues etc. or specialist training.
- Key Stage 4 Conference.
- Primary reading project: Letterbox and Poets Event in County Hall.





Lancashire Children's Rights

Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service

The Children's Society

"Children's rights are about treating children with equality, respect and dignity to which they are entitled, not because they are the "adults of tomorrow" but because they are human beings today."

Child Right's Information Network

Our Team

- Kirsty Clarke Service Manager
- Shagufta Khan Advocate
- Brenda Entwistle Advocate
- Cindy Moseley Volunteer Co-ordinator (IV)
- Simon Husband Volunteer Co-ordinator (IV)
- Nafeesa Kovariwala Children's Rights Support Worker (IV)

Lancashire Children's Rights, Unit 12 East way Business Village, Olivers Place, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9WT (01772 759233)

Our Aim

- Ensure vulnerable CYP have the opportunity to influence decisions, policies and practices that affect their lives.
- Provide independent advocacy support to eligible CYP
 - Issue based advocacy provided for a particular purpose, such as support for complaints and representation, and is provided on a time limited basis until a problem is resolved.
 - Meeting Based Advocacy to enable CYP to participate effectively in the planning and review process for their care, wellbeing and education.
- Recruit, manage and sustain Volunteer Independent Visitors for Children Looked After, who will befriend and assist CYP.

The service has operated since April 2000.

Who do we work with?

Advocacy:

- CYP who are in care of Lancashire County Council (issue and meeting based)
- CYP who have left Lancashire County Council care up to the age of 21(issue and meeting based)
- Children in Need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (issue based only)
- CYP approaching 18 and undergoing assessment to enable them to participate in the planning and review processes for their transition to adult services (SEND, CAMHS and young carers)

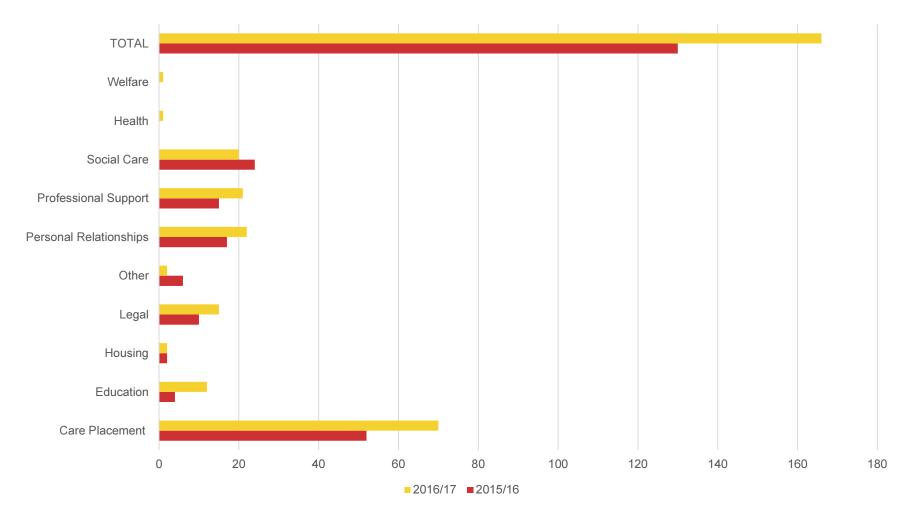
Independent Visitor.

■ CYP who are in care of Lancashire County Council up to the age of 18.

2016/17 Annual Review

- 185 advocacy referrals received, 143 worked with
- 91 IV referrals received, 76 worked with
- 80% of all advocacy closures have shown improved self-assessment scores
- 84% of accepted and progressed advocacy referrals were allocated and contacted by an advocate within 14 days of receiving the referral.
- 95% of CYP who completed the satisfaction survey were happy or very happy with the service.
- 98% of CYP who completed the satisfaction survey would recommend our service to friends.

Advocacy Issues 2015/16 – 2016/17



Placement issues, professional support and personal relationships remain the highest number of advocacy issues dealt with.

2017/18 Q1 April –June Advocacy issues

- Care Placement 46
- Support in meetings 20
- Personal Relationships 17
- Professional Relationships 13
- Education 10
- Social Care 9
- Legal 8
- Financial 4
- Housing 1
- Other 1
- Welfare 1
- 130 advocacy issues for 71 young people worked with.

Advocacy Service – Feedback from young people

Currently 58 open cases.

"My contact with family has been increased since working with my advocate and my behaviour has changed since working with her."

"She is very supportive, follows up with me & has a very good knowledge. Just a genuine, kind person & trust her as a professional."

"Having someone independent to speak up for me in my meeting."

"They made it easier for me to do things. I wouldn't have been able to do on my own and I felt supported. They did more for me than any other service/worker."

"She was my voice to my social worker and IRO; she kept in touch as much as she could even now that I am settled as I don't pick up my phone much. - I am happy looking forward to having my baby boy & I get to stay in this foster placement as I wanted."

"Supports me, - Listens to me - Understands me or if she doesn't she will try -Seems to fight for what is best for me - Gives me advice - Makes me feel like I am not on my own"

Independent Visitor Service – Feedback from young people

Currently 38 active matches, 12 young people waiting.

"My IV is a positive male role model, and has influenced positive family life, helps think about bad moods and feelings."

"Helped me try new things, helped my confidence in talking to new people."

"I am happy with my IV because she takes good care of me."

"I am happy because she takes me out to fun places and dose lots of fun stuff like looking at horses and bowling and other fun stuff like that and Helen talks about what we will do in the future and when we will do it"

"Just talking and listening"

"She helped me with confidence and also she made me feel like I was important"

1 LINX member has attended the Ucan young person research group in partnership with Uclan LINX members took part in Fundraising Filming 4 members of LINX came together for the LINX East Fostering and Adoption meeting

14 members of LINX facilitated and attended the Barnardo's West Participation Conference

1 member of LINX has attended the Lancashire Youth Council



5 care leavers attended the Care Leavers forum

6 member of LINX came together for the LINX combined meeting

3 members of LINX attended the Step up to Social Work Recruitment event

13 Members of LINX met with Amanda Hatton

11 members of LINX attended the Young Inspectors Meeting and took part in the refresher training

3 members of LINX attended the North West Children in Care Council Meeting





LINX Update 2017







isten involve egotiate press

LINX is Lancashire's Children in Care Council for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. We also share views and opinions about decisions that affect our lives.

We meet twice monthly to discuss issues that affect us meeting at different venues across Lancashire and we also go on residential weekends away and trips.

We take part in Consultations on important topics

We get involved in important decisions that have an impact on our lives

We attend Corporate Parenting Board Meetings working in partnership with decision makers

Some of our members sit on CRAE the Children's Rights Alliance for England Board

Others are 'Young Experts' for the Children's Commissioners groups











We regularly visit London to meet with the Children's Commissioner for England and Edward Timpson MP for children and young people and to attend the All Party Parliamentary Group Meetings for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

We also have members on the Care Leaver's National group, Cafcass young people's board, UCLan young researchers group and the Lancashire Youth Council

Achievements so far

Winners of several PROUD awards

Winners of 20 Diana Awards

LINX highly commended for the Young Achiever of the Year from the Rock FM Time to Shine Awards

1 member won the National Young Volunteer Marsh Award last year and attended an event hosted by Barnardo's to receive it

LINX won Inspiring Youth Led Winner from Youth on Board

Young Inspectors won Inspiring Youth Led Award Winner

We like to present our opinions in creative ways and have been involved in many different film making projects.

In our most recent short films we explored stereotyping and produced a film with ITV Fixers.

We looked at the impact on young people and worked together to produce Sam's Story in 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8 A 01U0ng