

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7th December, 2017 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 'C' (The Duke of Lancaster Room) - County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Andrew Gardiner	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Amanda Hatton	- Director of Children's Services, LCC
Iqra	- LINX Representative
Nicole	- LINX Representative
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Erin	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Mia Leyland	- Barnardo's
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers
Francis Ashcroft	- Agency Residential
Roxanne McAllister	- Lancashire County Council
Lynda Pearson	- Leaving Care, LCC
Dylan Williams	- Barnardo's

Other Attendees

Jane Hylton	- Leaving Care, LCC
Barbara Bath	- Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT Team, LCC
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services, LCC
Hannah Peake	- Participation, LCC
Sarah Jones	- Halton Council
Jane Jones	- Safeguarding, Morecambe Bay CCG

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor Philippa Williamson, County Councillor Stephen Clarke, Jane Simpson, Debbie Ross, Mark Cartridge, Debbie Duffell and Annette McNeil.

The Chair also welcomed Sarah Jones from Halton Council and a member of their Corporate Parenting Board who had come to observe the meeting.

2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 27 July and 7 September 2017

The minutes of the meetings held in July and September were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

3. LINX Activities

LINX carried out an Education activity with the Board and asked the questions attached. The answers are also given for reference on the attachment. Another part of the activity was to show the Board what it felt like to be removed from lessons at school for meetings with social workers/IROs and the impact this has when they return to the class. Unfortunately this part of the activity was postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

CC Brown informed the Board that he had undertaken three residential home visits, been along to Barnardo's and met with Child Action North West and the Children's Society. He had also visited the Sincerely You exhibition which had toured across Lancashire where letters from Care Leavers to their former selves had been on display. There had also been the Game Changer Conference held on Saturday 4 November 2017 that CC Brown had attended also.

Action: At the next meeting it was agreed that there would be a brief discussion on what the Corporate Parenting Board had achieved over the last six months. CC Brown will lead this discussion.

CC Gardiner re-iterated the need for young people to be able to contact somebody out of hours should the need arise to assist in every day matters, ie a puncture, lost key.

CC Gibson reported that it was nice to see different young people from LINX attending the meetings as well as the usual ones.

5. Update from Children's Services

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), Education, Employment and Training (EET), GCSE Results for Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers at University

Audrey Swann spoke to the presentation attached and reminded the Board about the changes in measurement to Key Stages 1 and 2 as well as GCSEs. There is still a big gap between attainments in children who are looked after and those that are not. However, the attainments that are measured at Key Stage 4 can differ greatly because it will not necessarily be the same cohort of children that were measured at Key Stages 1 and 2 and figures state that there are quite a number of young people who come into care in Year 11 (GCSE year). Key points for all attainments are detailed in the presentation. Lancashire attainments against National attainments for 2017 are not available until March 2018.

With regards EET, all Year 11 CLA are able to access career information, advice and guidance from a qualified support worker from the Children and Family Wellbeing Service.

The Employment Support Team are currently actively working with 172 young people.

There are 37 young people following higher education (University) studies – aged between 18 and 26.

Going forward actions were as follows for the education of CLA in Lancashire:

- Clarifying the learning offer for LCCs CLA/Care Leavers.
- Working with young people to make sure it fits their needs and aspirations.
- Strengthen links with colleges, universities, training providers and employers.
- Strengthen links with district councils.
- Raise expectations and aspirations of young people, carers, education and ourselves.

Local Offer for Care Leavers

Jane Hylton informed the Board about the Local Offer for Care Leavers and gave the presentation attached. Jane said that this was a fantastic opportunity to look at services in Lancashire County Council that can support Care Leavers in preparation for adulthood and independent living. The Local Offer will replace the Rights and Entitlements Guide and all information will be in one place. Young people will be consulted on what they want it to look like and it should be available to all Care Leavers by June 2018.

There are 881 Care Leavers in Lancashire and a small working group for the Local Offer has been set up to take this forward including how best to communicate with them all.

This is a big piece of work and will be looking for support from the Corporate Parenting Board on this.

Increasing Numbers of Children Looked After

There has been lots of different reviews taking place recently within Children's Services, the DFE Review, Peer Review, Monitoring Review and SEND Review and in six weeks the inspections will start again. The reports for the reviews are not available yet, however, what has come out of them is how inspirational the young people are whom the inspectors met and that they are a credit to Lancashire. It was also reported on how genuine the social workers are and speak with care and compassion about our young people. Things that need to improve are talking about what we do well and are getting right eg care leavers, as Lancashire are one of the best in the Country with indicators good/outstanding and this is down to the young people and as their parents we are very proud of them. Challenges faced are writing down and recording all the good work that is carried out and our young people have done a video about this.

With regards increasing numbers of children looked after, this is an area that needs to be looked at thematically.

The question was also raised by young people about how Brexit will affect them. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Residential Strategy

Barbara Bath shared the Residential Strategy PowerPoint as attached. All of the residential establishments except one are good/outstanding and the three overnight break units are good/outstanding also. Barbara shared the background to the previous strategy and the significant changes that have resulted in the need to revise a new strategy going forward, this includes a significant increase in the numbers of CLA and the spend in Children's Social Care agency placements since October 2015 and without action to address this, spend are predicted to continue to rise.

The aim of the strategy is to specifically seek to:

- Reduce numbers of CLA in residential placements.
- Ensure that appropriate placements are available to best meet the needs of our CLA.
- Ensure that best use is made of available resources and best value for money is achieved.

An Adolescent Support Unit will open in the New Year as a pilot and if this works, will look to possibly open others and offer respite weekends at the Crisis Unit to manage emergencies and prevent placement breakdowns. The Crisis Unit will open in April 2018. Barbara asked the young people to be involved in designing the Units and would contact LINX to arrange this.

Sincerely You

Roxanne McAllister and Jane Hylton introduced the film that was shown to the Board.

The following items, Mind of My Own – Hannah Peake and Care Leavers Facebook – Roxanne McAllister will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Actions: Sam Gorton to ensure that Mind of My Own and Care Leavers Facebook are on the next agenda.

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

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX presented the attached slide detailing what they had been doing since the last Board meeting.

Michelle spoke about the British Youth Council Awards where LINX had won the Best Campaign Category for Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers and had brought the award to show to the Board. The award would also be presented to representatives of LINX at Full Council on 14 December 2017. There were no matters arising from it.

Iqra gave detail about the Game Changer Conference that LINX had attended with CC Brown.

Bradley informed the Board that LINX and Participation had been shortlisted for three awards. 14 young people went to the awards ceremony in London where unfortunately they did not win an award however, to be finalists was amazing. One young person wrote a poem about this experience and it was shared with the Board and is attached.

Nicky Bamford commented that she had attended the Sincerely You exhibition and suggested that the letters be turned into a book. Roxanne McAllister and Jane Hylton informed the Board that this is something that is being researched and are collating the letters along with further comments and letters from the post box that travelled with the exhibition.

As part of Takeover Day, Iqra became the Director of Children's Services and attended various meetings with Amanda Hatton. At the Children's Services Improvement Board meeting, Iqra presented some slides to them on the vision of a young person in care and left them with a very powerful message "You have all done it – why can't I" and the last slide stating "Remember, you work for me". Iqra also talked about the CPB having a Unicorn vision on the Board giving the meaning of being magical and having high aspirations for our Children in Care.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked everybody for their contributions this year and wished all Board members a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster – Committee Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ. (Refreshments from 5.30pm).

9. Performance Report

This item was for information and had been discussed separately with LINX and Amanda Hatton.

Education Quiz

1. What percentage of young people achieve grades A* - C in their GCSE's including maths and English?

60%

2. What percentage of young people in care achieve grades A* - C in their GCSE's including Maths and English?

14%

3. Is this higher or lower than the national average across England for children in care?

Slightly Higher than 13.8%

4. What are the attendance rates of children in care in Lancashire in secondary schools?

91.9%

5. Nationally what percentage of care leavers are in education, training or employment?

44%

6. Nationally, what percentage of young people are in education, training or employment?

88%

7. How many care leavers were there studying at university in the academic year 2016 - 2017?

37

8. Is this more or less than previous years?

Less

Promoting the Education of Children Looked After in Lancashire



Lancashire Virtual School for CLA

Attainment 2016-17

How it is measured now?

Primary: Key Stage 1 and 2:

Age Related Expectations: Reading, Writing, Maths ,
and all 3 together. KS2: GPS: Grammar, Punctuation,
Spelling .

Secondary:

Attainment 8 (score achieved in 8 subjects at GCSE)
Equivalent to old grade C and above both in English
and Maths.

Key Stage 1: Year 2: Age 7

	EXS CLA	GDS CLA	ALL LANC PUPILS
Reading	38.47%	15.39%	
Writing	44.23%	7.7%	
Maths	50%	5.8%	
Reading ,Writing and Maths together	48%		63.4%

Key Points

Comparing 2016-17 group with 2015-16 group of KS1 CLA:

- **An increase** of 3.86% of pupils who have achieved expected standard or better in reading
- **An increase** of 9.93% of pupils who have achieved expected standard or better in writing.
- **An increase** of 13.8% who have achieved expected standard or better in Maths
- **An increase** of 16% who have achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Key Stage 2: Year 6 : Age 11

Subject	AS	GD
Reading	44.6%	
GPS	47.3%	
Writing	29.7%	10.8%
MATHS	47.3%	

Subject	EXP	ALL LANC PUPILS
Reading, Writing and Maths together	32.43%	60.5%

Key Points

Comparing 2016-17 group with 2015-16 group of KS2 CLA:

- **Decrease of 7.5 %** pupils achieving expected standard or better in writing.
- **Decrease of 2.4%** pupils achieving expected standard or better in reading.
- **Increase of 1.3%** pupils achieving expected standard in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.
- **Increase of 11.3%** pupils achieving expected standard in Maths.
- **Increase of 8.33%** pupils achieving expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- Writing assessed by teacher assessment, Reading, Maths and GPS by test.

Key Stage 4:Year 11:Age 16

English and Maths- graded 9-1. Grade 4+ equivalent to C+.

Measure	Number of pupils	% of pupils
English (Lang or Lit) Grade 4+	19	18.44%
Maths Grade 4+	18	17.47%
Eng. and Maths Grade 4+	13	12.62%
5 or more GCSE Grade 4+	13	12.62%
5 or more GCSE Grade 1-9	31	30.09%

Key Points:

- **Increase of 0.3%** of pupils achieving equivalent of 5 A*-C including English and Maths.
- CLA achieving 5 A*-G, including English and Maths remains at same level – 30%.
- **It is considered that GCSE examinations were more challenging in 2017 due to the reduction in course work, more challenging courses and a raising of the threshold to achieve the equivalent of a C grade. The return to a final examination for the majority of GCSE courses can be seen to disadvantage pupils with the profile of some looked after children i.e. Special educational needs, changes of home placement, changes of school- especially in KS4)**
- We will not have Attainment 8 scores until national statistics released – due march 18 but we may have some data sooner through the NCER pilot which Lancashire is part of- our average A8 score in 2015-16 for CLA was 22, national average score for CLA 20.8, Ave A8 score for all Lancashire pupils was 47.73%.
- **Unvalidated Average A8 score for all Lancashire pupils 2017 is 45.4.**

Individual Achievement.

- 1 pupil gained 13 GCSE at grade 4 and above
- 1 pupil gained 10 GCSE at grade 4 and above.
- 2 pupils gained 9 GCSE at grade 4 and above
- 2 pupils gained 8 GCSE at grade 4 and above.
- 2 pupils gained 7 GCSE at grade 4 and above

+

BTechs in Science, Health and Social Care, Art and Design, Sport, Dance, Food Studies and other qualifications in Construction, Car Mechanics, Joinery, Crafts, ICT (ECDL- 4 with distinction).

Education, Employment and Training EET.

- All year 11 CLA are able to access career information, advice and guidance from a qualified support worker from CFW service.
- Support to access work experience, shadowing, placements, pre and full apprenticeships from the Employment Support Team for CLA/Care Leavers from 15-25.(now part of the Virtual School).
- Social Worker and Personal Advisor support.
- PEPS and Pathway Plans.
- Bursary support for Further Education.
- Bursary support for higher education.
- PEPSA funding.

Current Situation.

YEAR GROUP/AGE	EET	Not available for EET	NEET	NEET actively engaging in EET support.
YEAR 12	70.5%	6.%	23.5%	93%
YEAR 13	55.7%	7.8%	36.5%	65%
Post Y13- age 18-25	47.8%	27.4%	24.8%	

Employment and Support Team

- Employment and Support Team have **172 young people** on their caseload actively being worked with.
- Since April 2017 they have **logged 503 “significant milestones”** with young people we are supporting. These are only recorded when there is a significant move on their employability journey for example attending an initial interview with us, a CV completed, a pre-meet with an employer etc.

Positive Outcomes

- We currently have 37 young people following higher education (university) studies- aged between 18 and 26.
- Case Studies.
- Virtual School now have a team member to support post 16- 25.
- Employment and Support Team now exclusively support CLA/Care Leavers and are now part of the Virtual School Team.

Employment Support Team Data

Since April 2017

Within LCC:

Apprenticeships 6

Employed 11

Work Placements 18

Within private sector:

Apprenticeships: 7

Employed: 11

Actions.

- Clarify the learning offer for our CLA/Care leavers
- Work with our young people to make sure it fits their needs and aspirations.
- Strengthen links with colleges, universities, training providers and employers.
- Strengthen links with district councils.
- Raise expectations and aspirations of young people, carers, educators and us all.

A Local Offer for Care Leavers

**Local
Offer**

**Children
and
Social
Work Act
2017**

**Corporate
Parenting
principles**

**Extending
Leaving
Care
Support to
age 25**



What does the Act say about the Care Leaver Offer?

Lancashire must publish information about services which can support Care Leavers in preparation for adulthood and independent living including:

- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Relationships**
- **Education and Training**
- **Employment**
- **Accommodation**
- **Participation in Society**

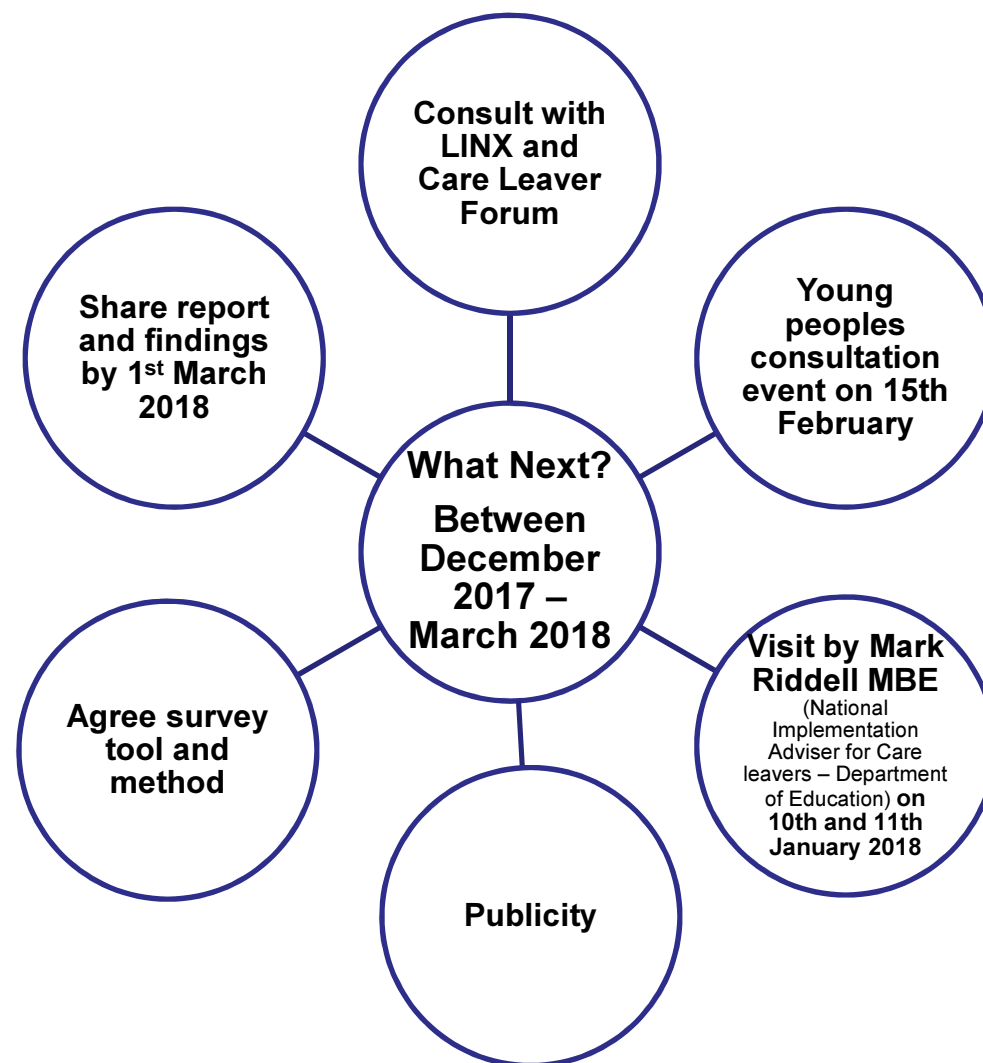
By when: June 2018

Who is the audience?

- Young People about to leave care and Care Leavers

Good Practise to be:

- Jargon Free
- Easy to Read
- Co-designed and co-produced by Care Leavers



Residential Strategy

Barbara Bath

**Head of Service for Fostering, Adoption, Residential and
Youth Offending Teams**

What is it?

The strategy includes both the redesign of existing residential provision to cater for a wider breadth of complexity and need, alongside the establishment of an Adolescent Support Unit, Extended Outreach Service and the Development of Emergency/Crisis Provision to reduce the number of children becoming looked after.

Background

LCC's current children's home provision is based on a previous strategy of the Local Authority providing accommodation for mainstream Children and Young People (in 10 large six bed homes) and agency providers accommodating more complex young people who's needs are better met in smaller homes.

Significant changes has resulted in the need to rethink this strategy, including:

- the new Ofsted children's home inspection regime and providers becoming more risk averse at taking very complex cases in order to protect Ofsted ratings;

- increased numbers of CLA, a national shortage of foster carers and increased use of local provision by other Local Authorities resulting in providers being able to choose who they take;
- spiralling CLA placement costs, particularly in relation to agency children's home placements;
- significant concerns raised by Ofsted through the Annual Conversation regarding LCC's limited choice of residential provision.

Lancashire has experienced a significant increase in the numbers of Children Looked After (CLA) and in Children's Social Care agency placements spend since October 2015. Without action to address, numbers of CLA and placement spend are predicted to continue to rise.

What does the strategy aim to do?

Specifically it seeks to:

- Reduce numbers of CLA in residential placements
- Ensure that appropriate placements are available to best meet the needs of our CLA
- Ensure that best use is made of available resources and best value for money is achieved

What will we do?

Open an adolescent support unit to prevent young people coming into care;

Extend our Outreach offer;

Open a Crisis unit;

Open a small 2/3 bedded complex unit;

Use 2 existing homes as fewer bedded homes;

Work with the Access to Resources team to ensure young people who need to be in care are placed in the right placement the first time.

What difference will it make?

The anticipated benefits include:

Reducing the number of CLA through prevention and reunification via the provision of outreach support, and respite provision;

Ability to place more complex CYP in-house without impacting on settled mainstream CYP and therefore maximising the use of mainstream provision through the provision of complex needs units;

Ability to manage emergencies and prevent placement breakdown through the provision of a crisis unit

Increasing placement stability through improved placement choice and therefore improved outcomes for CYP

Increased Ofsted confidence in Lancashire's ability to manage residential provision.

3 YP have delivered voice of the child training at 2 Social Work Academy's

3 Care Leavers Forum meetings have taken place

1 YP has attended 2 policy advisory board meetings with Become

YP have attended 3 Voice Over Meetings

YP have attended the regular Linx combined meetings, Young Inspectors meetings, Media meetings and Linx East Meetings

3 YP attended the Safeguarding Children Peer Review



2 Primary Linx meetings have taken place

2 Linx representatives have attended 2 Youth Council Meetings

5 YP attended the Sincerely You launch

2 Young People presented at the Key Stage 4 Conference

1 YP attended the APPG in London

5 YP attended the CYP Now Awards in London

2 YP attended the NYAS Film Launch

1 YP won a Radio One Teen Hero Award and attended the ceremony in London to collect it

1 YP attended the National Care Leavers Benchmarking forum

8 YP attended the Lancashire Participation Network Meeting and met with Amanda Hatton

4 young people attended the British Youth Council awards where Linx won

5 YP took over Barnardo's roles for the day

1 YP delivered training to Fostering and Adoption Panel Members

3 YP were interviewed for a film about the importance of social workers keeping accurate records



6 young people attended the North West Children in Care Council Conference in Blackpool

YP have carried out 2 sets of Speed Interviews

4 YP took over the East Social Work Team Development Day

6 YP attended CRAE meeting in London

1 YP took over the Director of Children's Services job for the day

CYP Now Awards trip down to London,
On the trip down we have lots of fun,
Once we arrived the long trip was done
Used the Underground,
Where there is endless sound,
Squeezing into the crowd,
Getting off and changing,
The amount of people ranging,
got to the hotel,
Posh,Warm,Homely,
We all got ready,
Keeping everyone moving steady,
We got to the awards,
Six-thirty arrival,
The music is upbeat like a revival,
Seven pm food begins,
The a break for introduction,
Then with instruction,
There was a band,
All done by hand,
With no backing track,
At the end we all clapped,
Then the main meal commenced,
Followed by the dessert,
Towards the stage our eyes revert,
The awards begin,
Twenty-three categories,
People cheering in all their glories,
Each category Barnardos was in we got excited,
A flame inside of us ignited,
But when we didn't win in any we were still delighted,
The end of the night,
Disco under the strobe light,
Back to the hotel,
We all said goodnight,
Then the final morning,
A bright, crisp day was dawning,
A walk in Hyde Park,

Went to the Winter Wonderland,
Where markets and rides stood,
End of the day,
Time for the train back,
Delays and problems with travel,
Eventually getting back on gravel,
At Preston station,
We say thanks in appreciation,
And elation,

Written by LINX Member, age 17