

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

## Agenda

**1. Introductions and Apologies**

*County Councillor Brown*

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

**2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 27 July and 7 September 2017** (Pages 1 - 12)

*County Councillor Brown*

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

**3. LINX Activities (15 mins)**

*LINX*

Education Activity

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

*County Councillor Brown 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 since the last meeting.

**5. Update from Children's Services (40 mins)** (Pages 13 - 28)

*Colleagues from Children's Services*

To receive an update on:

- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), Education, Employment and Training (EET), GCSE Results for CLA and Care Leavers at University – Audrey Swann
- Local Offer for Care Leavers – Jane Hylton
- Increasing Numbers of Children Looked After (CLA) – Amanda Hatton
- Residential Strategy - Barbara Bath
- Mind of My Own (MOMO) – Hannah Peake
- Care Leavers Facebook – Roxanne McAllister
- Sincerely You – Jane Hylton/Roxanne McAllister

**6. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (45 mins)**

*LINX and Barnardo's*

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

- What LINX have been doing
- Young Inspectors

**7. Any Other Business**

*County Councillor Brown*

To receive any other business.

**8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*County Councillor Brown*

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

**Information Item**

**9. Performance Report**

(Pages 29 - 48)

Performance report for September and December 2017.

# Agenda Item 2

## 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 Brown	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Andrew Gardiner	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Phillippa Williamson	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Stephen Clarke	-	Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	-	representing Foster Carers
Catherine	-	representing Adoption
Amanda Hatton	-	Director of Children's Services, LCC
Sam R	-	LINX Representative
Bradley	-	LINX Representative
Sam W	-	LINX Representative
Kris	-	LINX Representative
Michelle	-	LINX Representative
Iqra	-	LINX Representative
Nicole	-	LINX Representative
Liam	-	LINX Representative
Ellie	-	LINX Representative
Natasha	-	LINX Representative
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 County CPB
Four Young People	-	Sheffield City County 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 their 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 quiz 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 some of our Residential Services as there had been concerns previously. This time The Grange was given a rating of 'Good'.

## **Boing Boing**

**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.

**Action:** Amanda Hatton will consider the options for this and report to CPB on next steps.

## **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 quite 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 pursuing 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 Ellmore 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.



## **Lancashire County Council**

### **Corporate Parenting Board**

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

**Present:       Members**

County Councillor Ian Brown (Chair)	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Philippa Williamson	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Stephen Clarke	-	Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	-	representing Foster Carers
Catherine	-	representing Adoption
Amanda Hatton	-	Director of Children's Services, LCC
Michelle	-	LINX Representative
Kris	-	LINX Representative
Anisa	-	LINX Representative
Lisa	-	LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Mia Leyland	-	Barnardo's
Mark Cartridge	-	Agency - Fostering
Cath Brooks	-	Lancashire County Council
Roxanne McAllister	-	Lancashire County Council
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	-	Barnardo's
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
Kirsty Byrne	-	Morecambe Bay CCG
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	-	Democratic Services, LCC

**1.       Welcome, Introductions and Ice Breakers**

All were welcomed and the young people opened the meeting with an ice breaker.

## **2. What LINX Have Been Up To**

LINX presented the attached Powerpoint to the Board and there were no matters arising from it.

## **3. Young Inspectors Update**

Young Inspectors updated the Board and presented the attached Powerpoint.

## **4. Young Inspectors Activity**

Three members of the Board were inspected as part of this activity. CC Brown, Mark Cartridge and Amanda Hatton were interviewed by three groups. Each of the three groups decided on three/four questions they wanted to ask each of the interviewees. Following their answers, they were then scored and the groups feedback to CC Brown, Amanda and Mark and gave them their scores, reasons why they were given those scores and also recommendations that the inspectors would review at a follow up visit. The Young Inspectors also write a report on the inspection. The aim of this activity was to give a better understanding to the Board on how the Young Inspectors carry out their inspections.

## **5. Princes Trust Research**

Chris and Michelle have been involved with the Princes Trust Research and wanted to bring an activity here to see what is happening in Lancashire and what the barriers are. Groups were asked to write on flipcharts what Goals, Skills to Independence and Support they received and also Barriers children in care and care leavers face.

Feedback from Groups were as follows:

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Skills to Independence</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Barriers</b>
Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Strategy.	ASDAN.	University.	Risks of Social Media.
Participation Group.	Team working to look at Business Opportunities.	Barnardo's.	High turnover of social workers.
Better plans (SMART).	Apprenticeships for Care Leavers.	POWAR.	Stigma.
National Care Leavers Week.	Facebook Page.	LINX.	National Care Leavers Week – letters campaign.

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Skills to Independence</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Barriers</b>
Children in Our Care (CIOC) Development.	Future Horizons.	Lump Sum on Leaving Care for furniture etc.	Awards/Celebration events/launch events.
Developing local offer.	Advocacy/Independent Visitors.	Access to Child Adolescent and Mental Health Services (CAMHS).	Participation.
Links with housing.	Pathway planning.	Supporting Carers of Children and Young People Looked After Together (SCAYT).	Relationships – professionals and families.
Financial procedures.	Leaving Care Worker.	DWP.	Access – long waiting lists, funding, knowing where to go, accessibility, transport, limited weekend support.
Work with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).	Care Leaver Guide.	Service 6.	Stability – social workers, too many placements, inappropriate placements, need support to remain longer, longer review period, more money.
Links with Leisure Centres.	Youthzone Website.	Pathway Plans.	
ASDAN.	Care Leaving Team (University).	Leaving Care Worker.	
Positive relationships – more young people involvement.	Setting Up Home Allowance.	Pupil Premium and High Needs Funding.	
Designated people within services.	Events.	PEPSA.	

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Skills to Independence</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Barriers</b>
Financial – 'not done to' more freedom/allow to make mistakes.		Staying Put with Financial Support.	
Better transition between residential and care leavers.		Travel – passports applied and paid for.	
		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice School.	

## 6. Hopes and Dreams for the Future

Young people asked the Board to write down their hopes, dreams and what they would like to see binned for the future from a Corporate Parent perspective. The results were as follows:

<b>Hopes (Keep)</b>	<b>Dreams (New Ideas)</b>	<b>Bin</b>
Proud awards – bigger and better every year.	Pupil Premium for adopted children.	Bad comments being made on social media.
Keep forum.	See more good news stories of achievements of young people.	Poverty.
Young people's agendas on CPB.	More active involvement with children in care.	Four members said get rid of unnecessary paperwork.
Enthusiasm and positivity.	More interaction on social media.	Delay.
Voice of young people.	More young people participating.	
Keep CPB and Associate Bodies.	Get more care leavers involved in participation and have a voice about the Service.	
Keep Forum (Care Leavers) and LINX.	All areas to have local participation group.	
Family/friends together.	More sunny days.	
Keep Young People presenting at every CPB meeting.	Encourage more people to adopt older children, sibling groups and children with disabilities.	
	Continuing investment in the service post Ofsted.	

Hopes (Keep)	Dreams (New Ideas)	Bin
	Better communication.	
	Safe places for young people to meet especially for young people in care and care leavers.	
	More celebration of success and achievement.	
	More participation in local safeguarding board activities.	
	More joined up thinking.	
	Inspect other agencies working with children in care.	
	More young people's voices.	
	Involve more children in decisions.	
	More young people to be involved.	
	More job and education opportunities for our young people.	
	More young people come to LINX and Corporate Parenting.	

Roxanne McCallister informed the Board of the Lancashire NEET Strategy which aims to reduce the NEET population to 25% by September 2018 and ensure that young people have a holistic plan of support relating to their barriers to Education, Employment and Training (EET). A NEET panel has been established with SCAYT/Addaction/YOT/Probation/DWP on the panel and they will meet quarterly to review holistic plans in place and address issues.

For Care Leavers, the Facebook page that is now live, will help to bring them together and feel more of a community.

ASDAN is now registered for the next two years.

Look at getting Care Leavers involved in LINX before they leave care and then they can support each other.

Care Leavers forum is being rolled out to Central and North areas.

PROUD awards will take place again in March 2018.

The MOMO app is now up and running and young people are encouraged to sign up. Further information can be found here: <http://mindofmyown.org.uk/>.

## **7. Questions and Evaluations**

An evaluation activity of the meeting was undertaken and the young people were given a round of applause for leading the meeting and doing a fantastic job of doing so.

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 7 December 2017 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

# 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.

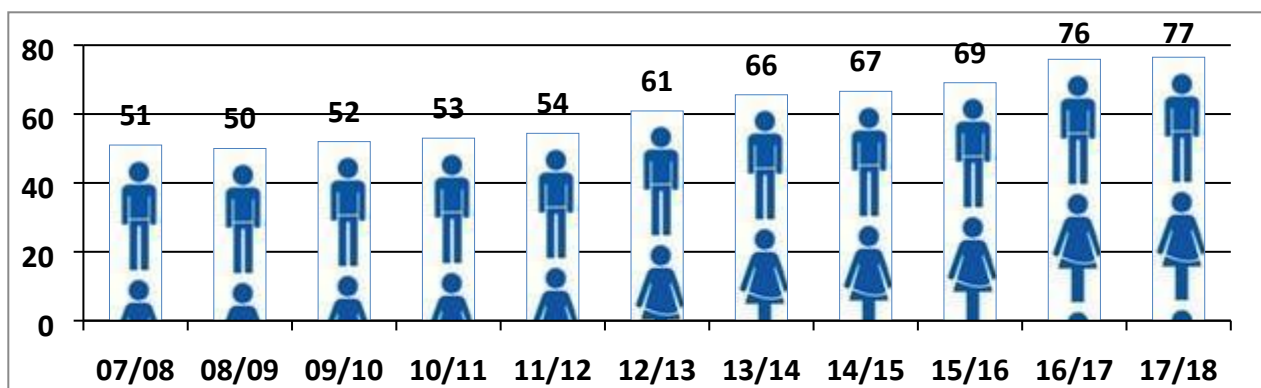


## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2017

### ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of July 2017 there were **1,889** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **76.5** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after further increased in July and is higher than 12 months ago (July 2016 - 1719)
- 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 July. There have been big increases in the number of looked after children over the last two years. The rate further increased in 2016/17 to 76 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.



	Previous Performance					Current Performance
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	2017/18 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1525	750	1575	1788	1831	1980
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1370	1679	868	958	826	810
Initial Assessments	11288	11865	-	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5901	5724	-	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	1089	1253	1205	1253

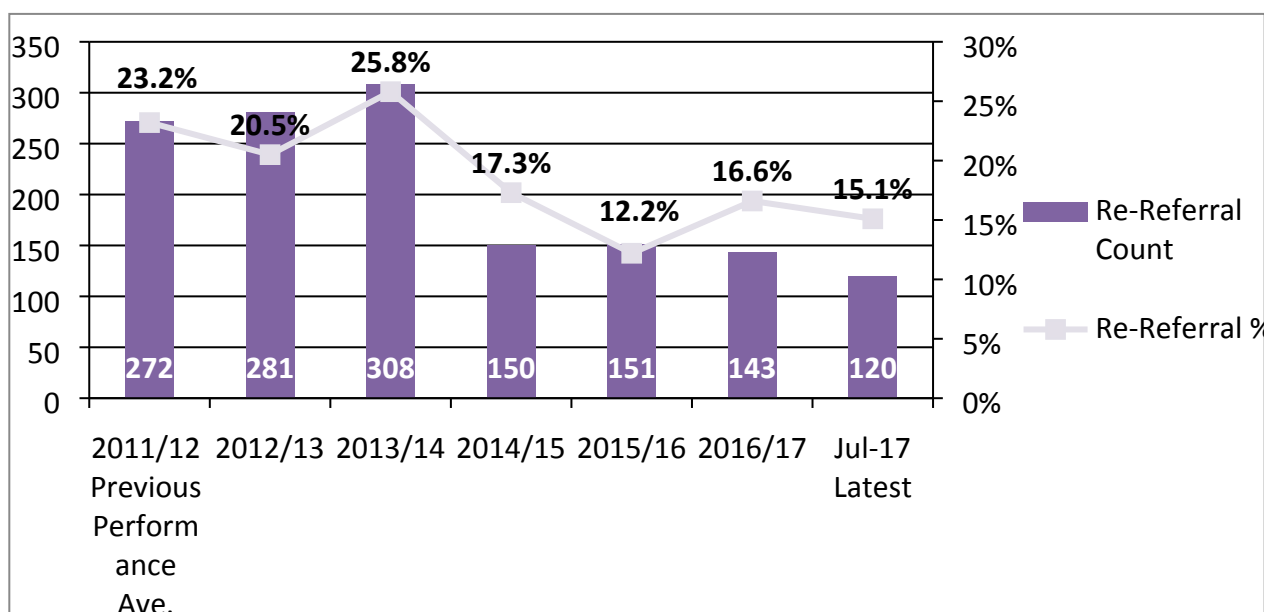
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 16/17 performance showed an average of 1205 assessments started per month.
- ❖ Latest average assessments started per month (1253) are higher than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1205).
- ❖ Referrals per month have reduced slightly thus far in 2017/18, with an average of 810 referrals per month compared with 826 in 2016/17.

### 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 2016/17 increased to almost just under 17 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 **15.1%** in July 2017 a slight reduction on the 16/17 rate.
- ❖ The June re-referral rate of 21.9% was the first time the re-referral rate had surpassed the 20% mark since October the previous year.

### 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 July 2017 shows that almost **8** out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target.
- This is slightly worse than 16/17 performance of **4.9%** 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?
2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	July 17		
6.8%	5.4%	4.9%	7.7%	9.5%	
↘	↘	↘	↗	✓	

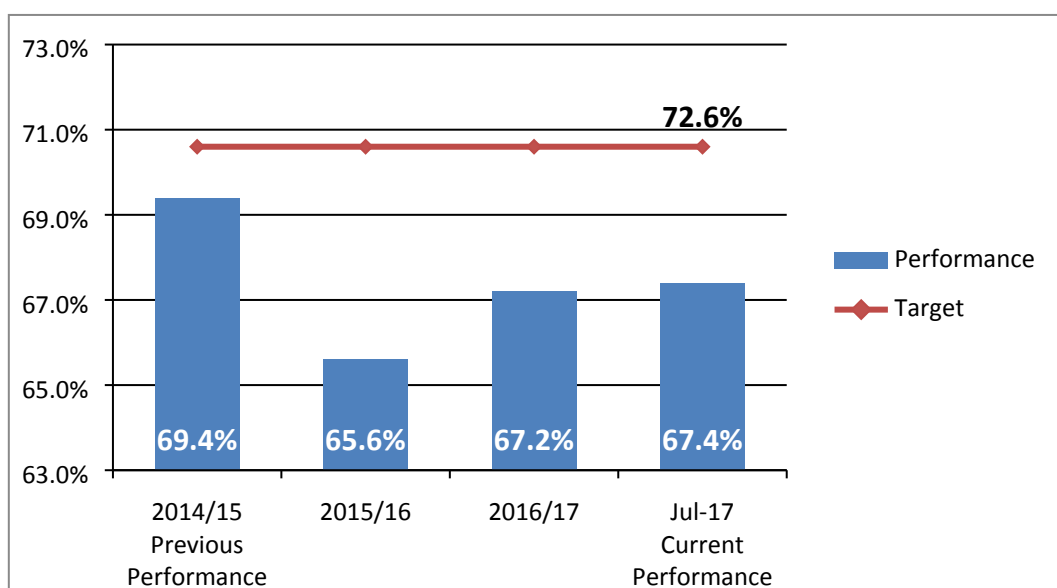
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance has deteriorated in July but there are still around 8 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.
- July 2017 information shows that **67** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance remains similar to 2016/17 performance (**67** 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 improved in 16/17, to 67.2% 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	2016/17	Q1 17/18
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361	166	155	113
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365	145	185	60
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764	-	-	-
Other Children Missing	1338	742	-	-	-
<b>Children Missing within Lancashire boundaries</b>	<b>2456</b>	<b>2222</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1148</b>	<b>413</b>

### 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 figure dropped to around **9** out of 100 in 15/16, with **11** out of 100 in 16/17.
- ❖ 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 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 1	11/12 2	12/13 3	13/14 4	14/15 5	15/16		
Primary	96.3 %	96.2 %	97%	97.2 %	97%	96.5%	96.0%	
Secondary	92.5 %	94.3 %	92%	95%	92.7 %	91.9%	96.0%	

### COMMENTS:

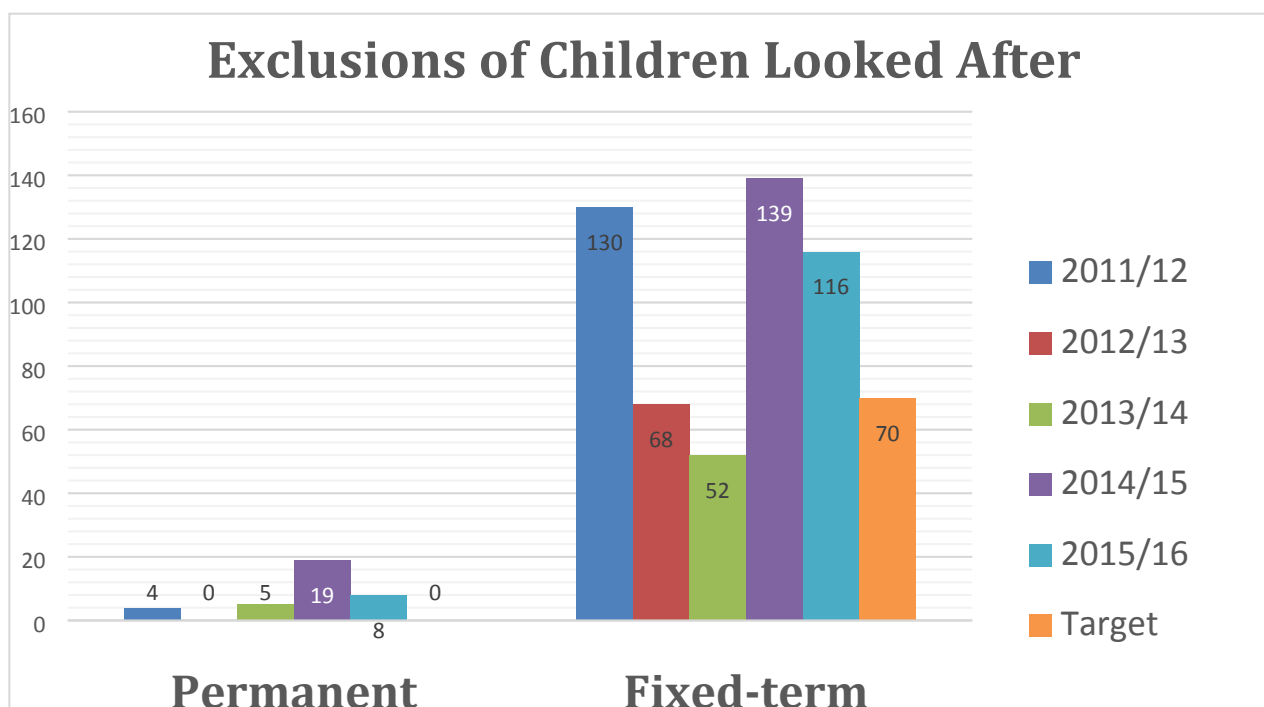
- ❖ Young people feel that the lower performance for secondary school pupils are a reflection of the increased age of these pupils and the free will exerted by those who are older leading them to miss school. The stress of placement moves and of being in care were also cited as reasons for non-attendance, 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:

- 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
- 1.9% of eligible Lancashire CLA were known to the Youth Offending Team in Q1 2017/18 a reduction from 2.8%.
- 18.5% of young people receiving YOT orders were CLA in Q1 2017/18, a reduction from 20.2% the previous quarter.

### **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 (July 2017)

- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than the previous year (July 2016 - **94**)
- **86** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (July 2017)
- This position has improved recently after reaching a new in-year low in May 17 of **77**.

#### 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

- **73** Children Looked After were adopted in **2016/17**.
- 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.



#### 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:

- **98** looked after children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 16/17, down from **149** in 15/16, and **120** in 14/15.
- **20** looked after children were given a permanent home under residence order during **2016/17**, an increase from **10** in 2015/16, and 14/15 performance of **16**.
- In the first quarter of 2017/18, **24** children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order, with a further **5** given a residence order.

#### 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 July 2017, out of 100 care leavers, **91** were considered to be in suitable accommodation

#### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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:

- May 2017 data suggests **44%** 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 almost half of all 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.

#### 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.

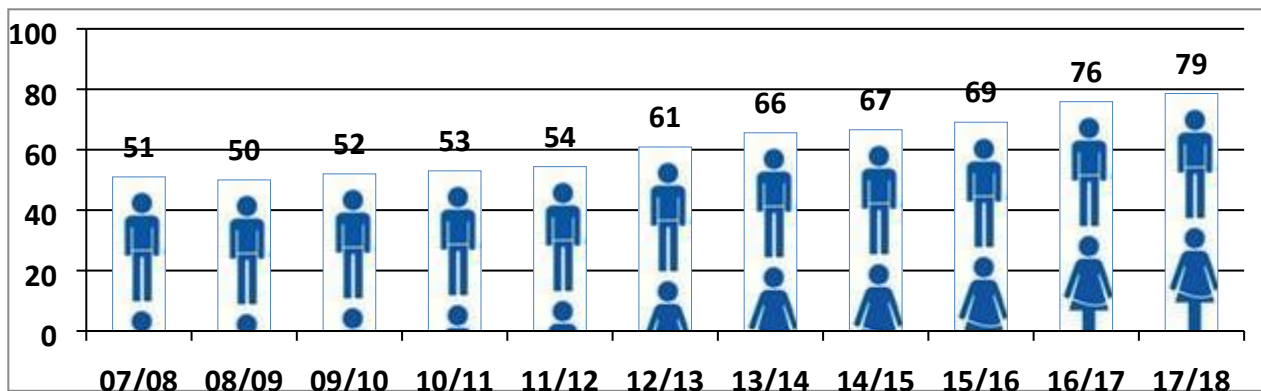


## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, DECEMBER 2017

### ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of October 2017 there were **1,940** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **78.6** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after further increased in October and is higher than 12 months ago (October 2016 - 1779)
- 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 July. There have been big increases in the number of looked after children over the last two years. The rate further increased in 2016/17 to 76 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.



	Previous Performance					Current Performance
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	2017/18 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1525	750	1575	1788	1831	1964
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1370	1679	868	958	826	802
Initial Assessments	11288	11865	-	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5901	5724	-	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	1089	1253	1205	1238

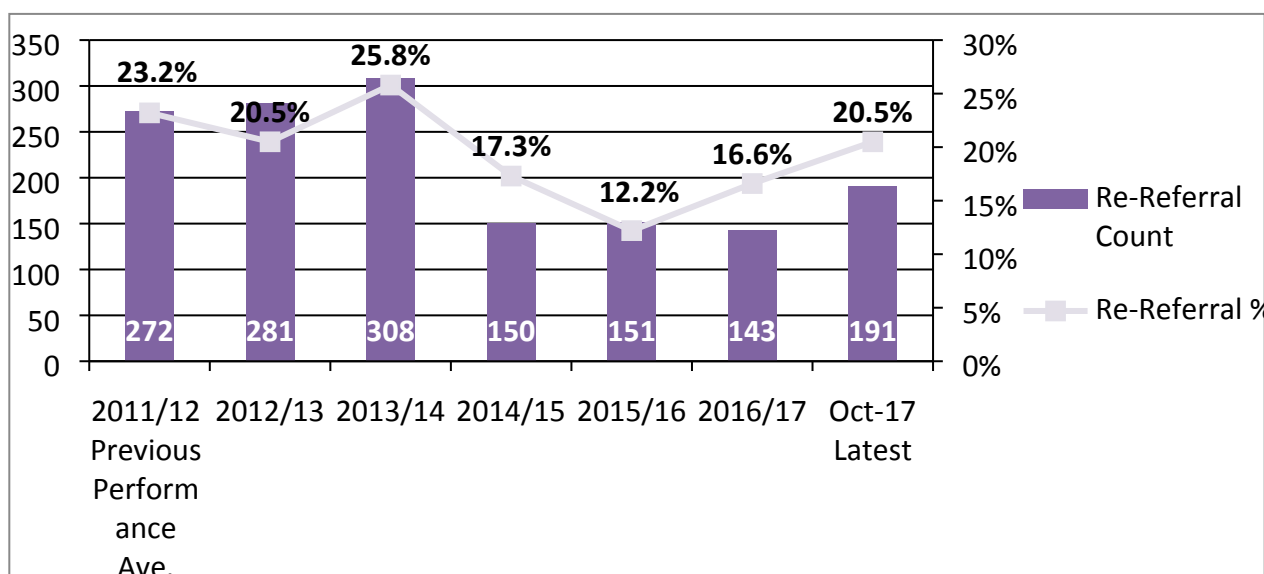
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 16/17 performance showed an average of 1205 assessments started per month.
- ❖ Latest average assessments started per month (1238) are higher than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1205).
- ❖ Referrals per month have reduced slightly thus far in 2017/18, with an average of 802 referrals per month compared with 826 in 2016/17.

### 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 2016/17 increased to just under 17 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 **20.5%** in October 2017 which is an increase on the 2016/17 average rate. This is still a reduction on October-16 which saw **22.6%** of all referrals being re-referrals.

### 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 October 2017 shows that just over **8** out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target.
- This is slightly worse than 16/17 performance of **4.9%** 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?
2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	October 17		
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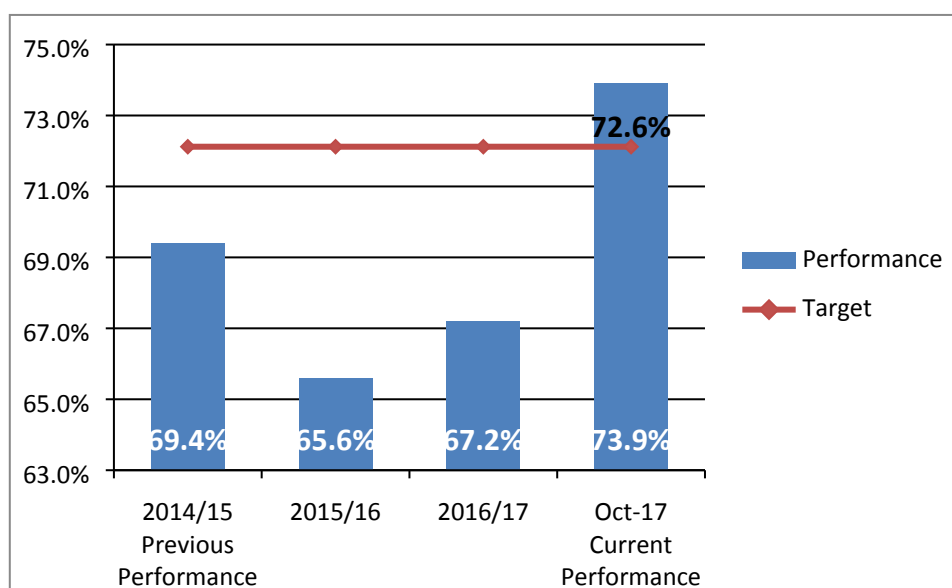
### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance has deteriorated in October but there are still around 8 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 would like to see more research and reasons into what causes placement moves.
- ❖ Young people 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.
- July 2017 information shows that almost **74** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance and just above our target.
- Current performance is now higher than 2016/17 performance (**67** out of 100) with both September (**74** out of 100) and October (**74** out of 100) both meeting our target.



### 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 improved in 16/17, to 67.2% of CLA.

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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.

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### 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 figure dropped to around **9** out of 100 in 15/16, with **11** out of 100 in 16/17.
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- ❖ 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.
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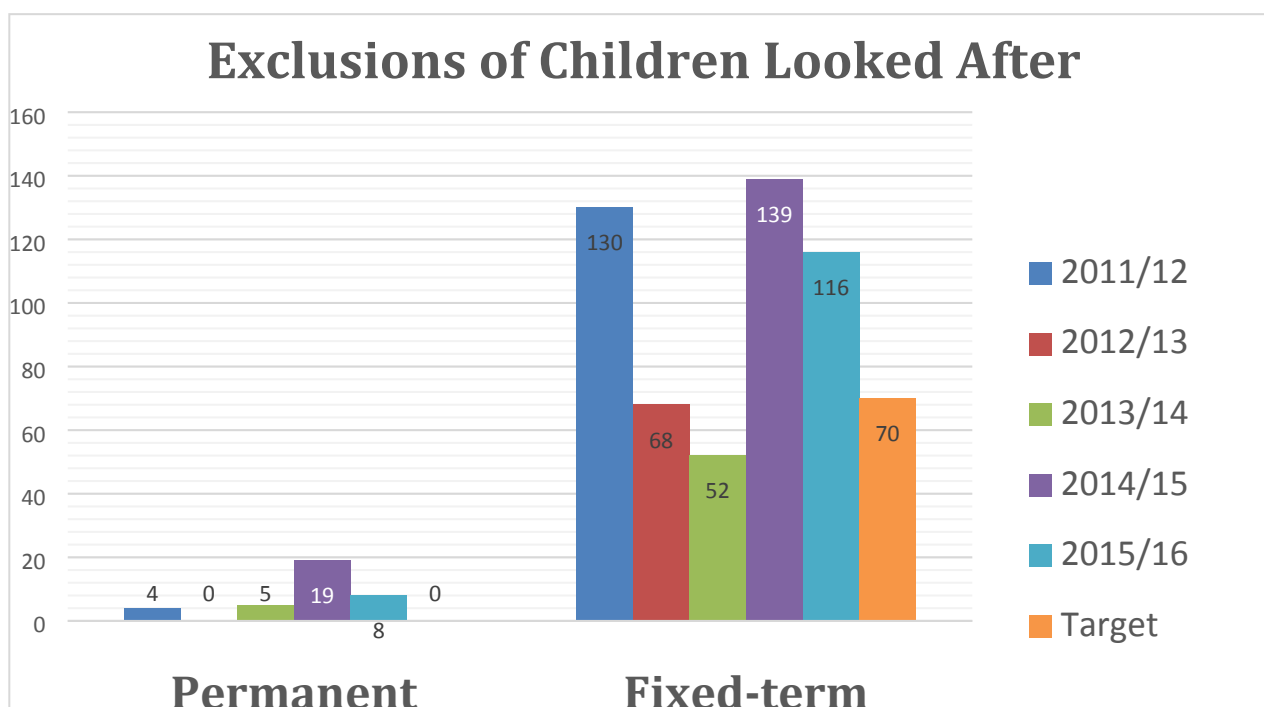
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### CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN YOUNG OFFENDER INSTITUTIONS OR SECURE UNITS

- There are a small number of children looked after placed in young offender institutions or secure units, **7** as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.
- 2.1% of eligible Lancashire CLA were known to the Youth Offending Team in Q2 2017/18 a reduction from 2.2%.
- 19.8% of young people receiving YOT orders were CLA in Q2 2017/18, an increase of 0.4% from the previous quarter.



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

- **89** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (October 2017)
- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than the previous year (October 2016 - **93**)
- **82** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (October 2017)
- This position has improved recently after reaching a new in-year low in May 17 of **77**.

### 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

- **73** Children Looked After were adopted in **2016/17**.
- 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.
- **19** children were adopted in Quarter 1 of 2017/18, with a further **13** adopted in the second quarter.



### 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:

- **98** looked after children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 16/17, down from **149** in 15/16, and **120** in 14/15.
- **20** looked after children were given a permanent home under residence order during **2016/17**, an increase from **10** in 2015/16, and 14/15 performance of **16**.
- In the second quarter of 2017/18, **29** children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order, with a further **5** given a residence order.

### 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 October 2017, out of 100 care leavers, **95** were considered to be in suitable accommodation

#### COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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:

- October 2017 data suggests **43.7%** of Care Leavers were in education, training or employment.
- Nationally **89** out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (March 2016)



#### COMMENTS:

- ❖ Latest performance suggests that almost half of all 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.

#### 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.