

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 Meeting and Matters Arising from 8 December 2017 (Pages 1 - 6)

County Councillor Brown

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

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

4. What our Young People have been doing (10 mins)

LINX

To note feedback from work undertaken by LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) and the Young Inspectors since the last meeting.

5. What our Board Members have been doing (10 mins) (Pages 7 - 10)

CPB Members

Members are asked to update the Board on the Pledges made (as attached) at the December 2017 meeting and what they have done differently in respect of the Pledges since that meeting.

6. Update from Children's Services (15 mins)

Amanda Hatton, Director of Children's Services, Hannah Peake, Roxanne McAllister

To receive an update on:

Pupil Premium – Amanda Hatton (5 mins)

Mind of My Own (MOMO) – Hannah Peake (5 mins)

Care Leavers Facebook – Roxanne McAllister (5 mins)

7. National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (10 mins)

Natasha Wright

To receive feedback from the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum.

8. LINX Activities (15 mins)

LINX

9. Education (45 mins)

LINX and CPB Members

10. Any Other Business (5 mins)

County Councillor Brown

To receive any other business.

11. Revised Meeting Schedule 2018

(Pages 11 - 12)

County Councillor Brown

To note the revised meeting schedule for 2018.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Brown

Information Item

13. Performance Report

(Pages 13 - 22)

Performance report for January 2018.

Agenda Item 2

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.

Corporate Parenting Board Pledges – 7 December 2017

Pledged	Progress	Pledged By:
Challenge young people in our care to achieve their dreams and believe they can get to where they want be in life.		Barbara Bath
Our School Nurses offer appointments to some children in a venue of choice. Talk to services on how to extend this to all young people and their carers.		Jane Jones
Ensure that medical services work for you rather than against you.		Dr Nicky Bamford
<p>Listen to what you are saying and take notice of what you are saying.</p> <p>Feed back to the IRO Service that young people should be consulted about where their meetings take place...avoiding school/college.</p>		Amanda Mansfield
<p>Listen to you, listen to your views and aspirations and as a corporate parent to act on your views so you have a successful life and future.</p> <p>Also to make sure your views and opinions are reflected in the local offer.</p>		Jane Hylton

Pledged	Progress	Pledged By:
<p>Write to all social workers and IROs to remind them that education is really important to all of you so they need to do everything they can to make sure you get the best education possible. We will not pull you out of lessons for meetings and we will be aspirational for you. "You did, so can I".</p>		<p>Amanda Hatton</p>
<p>Hearing and acting on the voices of our young people.</p> <p>Have high aspirations for our young people and ourselves as their corporate parents.</p> <p>To form and model positive and caring relationships with young people.</p>		<p>Roxanne McAllister</p>
<p>Take back to the teams what you have people have said tonight.</p> <p>Listen and act on what the young people have said.</p> <p>Expect the very best for young people.</p>		<p>Lynda Pearson</p>
<p>Keep on improving services for young people in care/leaving care.</p> <p>Carry on doing my best.</p>		

Pledged	Progress	Pledged By:
Having my voice heard.		Young Person
As young people I find it incredibly important that all looked after children and care leavers should meet others in similar situations and share their views and do activities together so we don't feel different or the odd one out.		Erin – Young Person
<p>Listen to all my family so they can achieve their aspirations and goals – whatever they will be.</p> <p>To provide a back-up service which will support all when they their own way in the world ie Kris' key.</p>		CC Gardiner
<p>Listen to young people on all issues and report back.</p> <p>Work tirelessly to make things happen for the benefit of young people.</p> <p>Look at attainment.</p> <p>Look at which Children Looked After is increasing.</p> <p>To make a difference.</p>		CC Brown

Pledged	Progress	Pledged By:
Employ three apprentices in the care leaver service and support them to achieve. To write the Participation Strategy by Christmas.		Hannah Peake
To get an apprenticeship.		Michelle – Young Person
Never let annoying adults get in the way of our ambitions, no matter how stupid, because quite frankly we are the future, and we can't be the future unless we get the support we deserve.		Iqra and Nicole – Young People
Encourage my children to be the best that they can be.		Catherine

SCHEDULE OF CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD MEETINGS 2018

The table below lists the dates and venues of meetings for 2018.

If you have any queries regarding the Corporate Parenting Board, please contact Sam Gorton, Clerk to the Corporate Parenting Board either by telephone (01772) 532471 or e-mail sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk

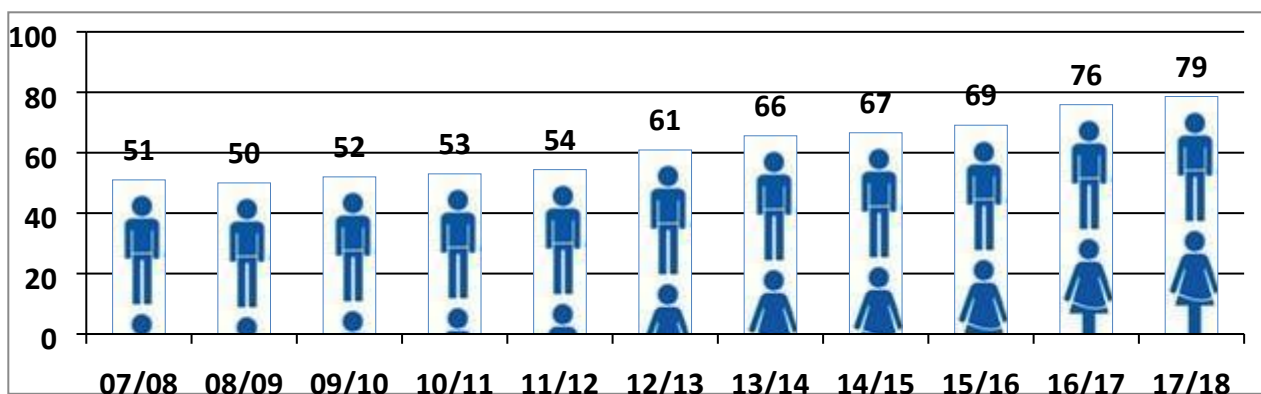
Date of Corporate Parenting Board Meeting	Time and Venue
Thursday, 25 January 2018	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Wednesday, 14 March 2018	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Tuesday, 23 May 2018	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Thursday, 26 July 2018 - Young People's Meeting	1.30pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Wednesday, 26 September 2018	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')
Tuesday, 27 November 2018	6.00 pm – Duke of Lancaster Room (Former Cabinet Room 'C')

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, JANUARY 2018

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of December 2017 there were **1,950** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **79.0** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after decreased in December but is higher than 12 months ago (December 2016 - 1799)
- 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 decreased in December. There have been big increases in the number of looked after children over the last two years. The rate further increased in 2017/18 to 79 per 10,000.
- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after is higher than that of Lancashire's statistical neighbours and the national average but lower than the average of other North West local authorities.
- ❖ Lancashire's statistical neighbours are Bury, Calderdale, Derbyshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Sefton, Staffordshire, Stockport and Stockton-on-Tees.

SERVICE ACTIVITY

Service activity helps to explain the rise in the number of children looked after in Lancashire:

- The contact centre has received **less** referrals than in previous years, although **more** contacts.
- A referral is information received regarding a child that is deemed to require social care involvement. A contact is any information received that doesn't lead to a referral.
- The social work teams have moved from initial and core assessments to a new single assessment from 1st April 2014.



	Previous Performance					Current Performance
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	2017/18 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1525	750	1575	1788	1831	1945
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1370	1679	868	958	826	841
Initial Assessments	11288	11865	-	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5901	5724	-	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	1089	1253	1205	1252

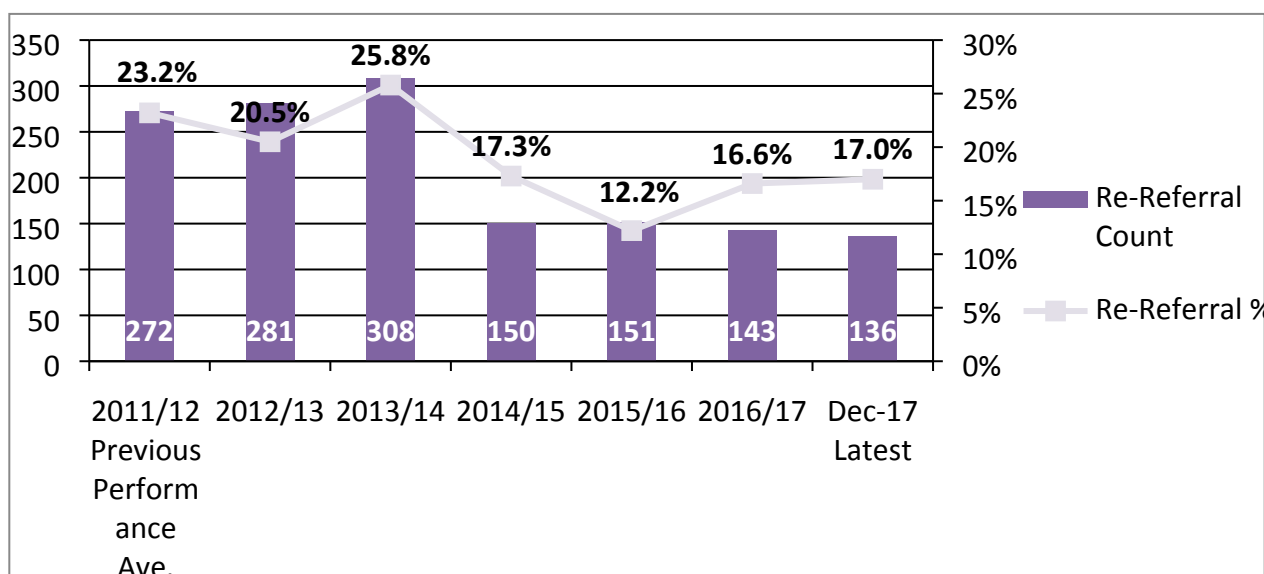
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013, a large number of contacts from the Police have been passed to MASH rather than going through Care Connect.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014, contacts and referrals were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first full year shows an average of 1089 assessments were started per month. The second full year shows a 15% rise, with an average of 1253 assessments starting per month. 16/17 performance showed an average of 1205 assessments started per month.
- ❖ Latest average assessments started per month (1252) are higher than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1205).
- ❖ Referrals per month have increased slightly in 2017/18, with an average of 841 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 **17.0%** in December 2017 which is an increase on the 2016/17 average rate. This is still a reduction on December-16 which saw **20.5%** 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 December 2017 shows that just over **9** out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target.
- This is worse than 16/17 performance of **4.9%** but still a slight improvement on 2013/14 when over **9** out of 100 children looked after had to move twice or more during the year.

Previous Performance				Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	December 17		
9.5%	6.8%	5.4%	4.9%	9.2%	9.5%	

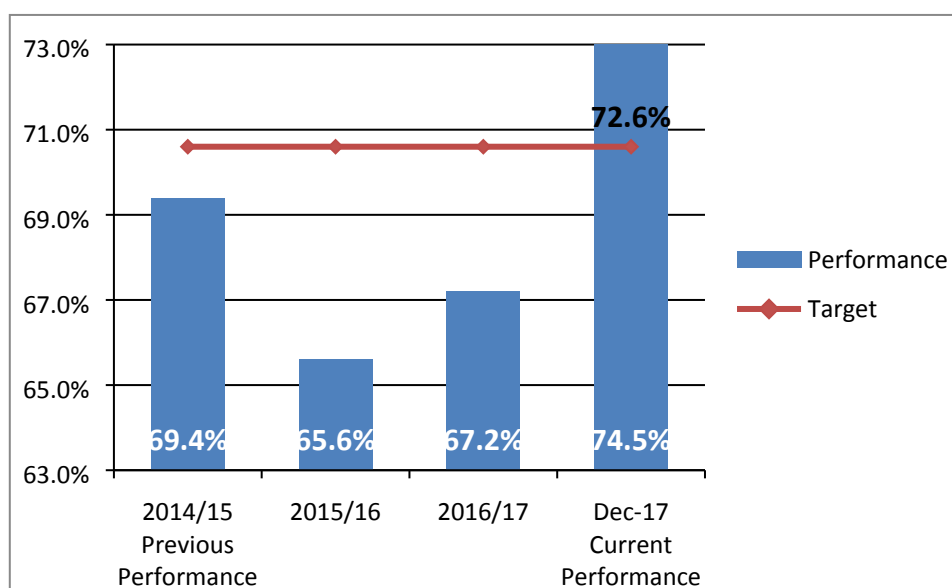
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance has deteriorated in December
- ❖ 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.
- December 2017 information shows that almost **75** out of 100 children looked after 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 November (**74** out of 100) and December (**75** 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.

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	Q2 17/18
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361	166	155	113	101
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365	145	185	60	73
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764	-	-	-	-
Other Children Missing	1338	742	-	-	-	-
Children Missing within Lancashire boundaries	2456	2222	891	1148	413	429

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	14/15		
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?
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	2016/17		
Primary	96.2%	97%	97.2%	97%	96.5%	96.3%	96.0%	😊
	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘	↘	↗	
Secondary	94.3%	92%	95%	92.7%	91.9%	87.0%	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

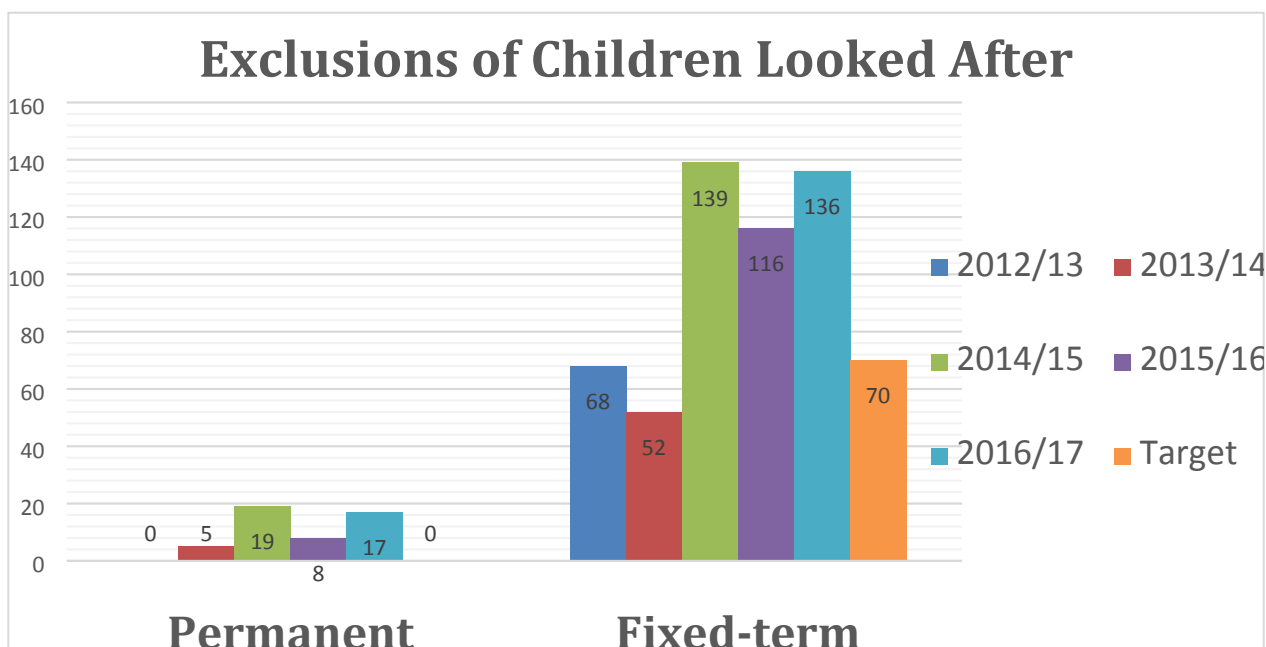
person does not attend for the morning/afternoon, this would be classed as an absent, but potentially authorised, session.

- ❖ 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 unique number of children looked after either permanently excluded or on fixed term exclusion:

- The number of fixed term exclusions has increased in the 2016/17 period and does not meet the target set by the Corporate Parenting Board. In addition to this, there were a number of permanent exclusions within the last year which means the target of zero permanent exclusions has also 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, **5** as at 31st December 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

- **84** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (December 2017)
- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than the previous year (December 2016 - **94**)
- **83** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (December 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. Quarter 3 of 2017/18 saw **25** children adopted.



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.
- In the third quarter of 2017/18, **16** children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order, with a further **3** 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 December 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:

- December 2017 data suggests **48.1%** 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.