

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 25 January 2018 (Pages 1 - 8)

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 9 - 12)

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 the Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services (10 mins)

John Readman, Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services

To receive an update relating to children looked after and care leavers that have occurred since the last meeting.

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

Young People and Barnardo's

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

- the Performance Report
- "What would you do different if you were in charge of Children's Services?"

8. National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (10 mins)

Natasha Wright

To receive feedback from the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum.

9. Title for Corporate Parenting Board (10 mins)

County Councillor Ian Brown

To decide on a new title for the Board that will sit alongside Corporate Parenting Board.

10. Care Leavers Policy (10 mins)

County Councillor Brown

To discuss the Care Leavers policy, particularly Staying Put.

11. Any Other Business (5 mins)

County Councillor Brown

To receive any other business.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Brown

Tuesday, 22 May 2018 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'D' – Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Information Item

13. Performance Report

(Pages 13 - 22)

Performance report for March 2018.

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 25th January, 2018 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 Andrew Gardiner	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Phillippa Williamson	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Stephen Clarke	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Amanda Hatton (7.15pm)	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- Adoptive Representative
Nicole	- LINX Representative
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative
Lisa	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Mark	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Louise Burton	- NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG, NHS Greater Preston CCG and NHS West Lancashire CCG
Amanda Mansfield	- Lancashire County Council
Roxanne McAllister	- Lancashire County Council
Lorraine Moody	- Barnardo's
Dylan Williams	- Barnardo's

Other Attendees

Jane Hylton	- Lancashire County Council
Kirsty Clarke	- The Children's Society
John Readman	- Lancashire County Council
Natasha Wright	- Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Lancashire County Council

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from Jane Simpson, Graham Nelson, Nicola Bamford, Debbie Ross, Mia Leyland, Francis Ashcroft, Lynda Pearson and Barbara Bath.

The Chair welcomed the new Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services to the meeting. John Readman will replace Amanda Hatton on the Board temporarily from March 2018.

The Board were asked to note a change in the Fostering Forum representation – Mark Twiname and Lynsey Evans had been replaced by Graham Nelson. Also Francis Ashcroft, Agency Residential and Mark Cartledge, Fostering Residential had served their 12 month period on the Board and that new representation was being sought and would be appointed at the next meeting in March 2018.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 8 December 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

County Councillor Ian Brown had met with Andy Smith, Children's Social Care and Sally Allen, Safeguarding. There is also a visit planned in April to a secure unit and CC Brown will feed back on this at a future meeting.

CC Clarke reported on an issue that had been raised by residents concerning an agency residential home in the North and that young people who were staying there had been causing problems in the neighbourhood. Following further investigation it was found to be local children not those from the residential home that were causing the problems, which proved the public's perception of young people in care. CC Clarke had also attended the Safeguarding Bite Size briefing earlier in the week.

CC Gibson congratulated the young people who attended Full Council in December where the Sincerely You video was shown and also they were presented with the British Youth Council Best Campaign Category award for Council Tax Exemption for Care Leavers.

4. What our Young People have been doing

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX presented the attached Powerpoint to the Board on all the activities they had been doing since the last meeting in December.

There was a young person who had recently been to London for the "Become Policy Advisory Board" meeting, after being selected to sit on the Board. This is a great opportunity for the young person and to have representation from Lancashire on that Board is amazing.

Young Inspectors

The attached Powerpoint was presented and the Board were informed that following the initial contact with the establishment, explaining the reasons for the visit, the young people are then keen for the Young Inspectors to visit. The age of the young inspectors are from 12-25 years of age, however primary age can be trained too.

5. What our Board Members have been doing

This item was not discussed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

6. Update from Children's Services

Care Leavers Facebook

Following a visit from Coventry City Council to a previous CPB meeting on 20 April 2017 to discuss Route 21 their Facebook page, Lancashire have now developed three Care Leavers Facebook pages for Central, North and East areas. The Central page is called Stay Centred and this was piloted originally, and then the North View 4U page was set up in October 2017 with the East page East Side 4U ready to be launched in the next few weeks. Roxanne McAllister presented the attached Powerpoint to the Board. Pages are used to promote discussion on issues relevant to Care Leavers, promote peer support and inform them of services and opportunities available to them, access support quickly and easily, should their worker be unavailable, access services and job/participation services. It has already seen an increase in contact with care leavers and improved Employment, Education and Training (EET) figures.

If anybody wishes to advertise events on the pages, then please contact Roxanne McAllister, Roxanne.mcallister@lancashire.gov.uk.

Apprenticeships

There are currently three care leaver apprentice opportunities being offered in each area – part business administration and part care leaver participation which will create full-time apprenticeships and will be a link in to Barnardo's and the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum. 29 care leavers applied which is very promising and the roles will evolve around the young people's strengths and what the team's requirements are.

MOMO

Natasha Wright gave a brief overview on the MOMO (Mind of My Own) app for 8-21 year olds who can use it to have a say, express their views, be heard and access it 24/7. For workers it enables easier conversations, better evidence, saves time and gives a better understanding which leads to better relationships. Lancashire currently have 200 young people and 400 workers who all have accounts and over 200 documents have been created. This is still a pilot scheme, however from September 2017 to December 2017 Lancashire has been named as the best performing Authority each month out of 60 Authorities who use MOMO.

Amanda Mansfield, Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) gave feedback from the IRO Service where MOMO is used and finds it has greatly improved meetings with young people and that young people open up more using it, than face to face, which is sometimes daunting for them.

Natasha was congratulated for her efforts and good work, which continues with MOMO.

7. National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum

Natasha Wright and Jane Hylton gave feedback on the Young People's Benchmarking Forum which was formed in 2008 and is for Care Leavers aged 16 and above from the National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF). The Forum usually involves care leavers who are employed as a participation worker by their Local Authority, undertaking a traineeship/apprenticeship and actively involved with participation work and service delivery improvement within their Local Authority.

Natasha reported that she had attended events in Liverpool, Sheffield and Durham where discussions had taken place on what is going well for care leavers in their local authority and one thing that needed to be improved or a challenge their local authority was facing. Previous topics that have been covered have been The Care Leaver Strategy and corporate parenting. Natasha has also attended the managers' events in York and Leeds where the voice of the care leaver is loud and clear.

The next event is in March 2018 where the key speakers are Mark Riddell- Leaving Care Implementation officer for Department for Education, John Short - Leaving Care Policy/Procedures and Anna Whalen – Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Action: Natasha Wright agreed to report back at the next May meeting of CPB from the event in March 2018.

Roxanne McAllister commented that Lancashire was hosting a Benchmarking Forum event in May 2018.

The Board were then shown a [video](#) from the NCLBF.

8. LINX Activities

LINX led the Board through an activity. The attached PowerPoint had been created by Sam R a member of LINX. As the report was being presented, members of the Board were taken out of the meeting as part of the exercise and then when they returned, other members of LINX were talking to them. The aim of the exercise was for the Board to understand a young person's perspective when they are removed from lessons to undertake various meetings with social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers and how by so it also disrupts the rest of the class. Young people also reported that if they missed registration for one of the meetings they are marked as absent.

Board members who had been removed were asked how they felt following the exercise and their experience was one of being singled out, felt they had missed what was going on in the room, didn't know where they were up to when they returned and also when they returned to the room, the questions from peers as to why they had been taken out and what for, felt worse for some members as this was an invasion of privacy and that the young person was put under the spotlight and felt pressured by peers to tell them what was going on in the meeting and why. Another comment received from a young person was that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting lasting an hour when studying for 'A' levels is far too long.

Amanda Mansfield informed the Board that IROs now consult with the young people and ask them where they want to meet and arrange a suitable time. More resources have been made available to do this since MOMO was introduced.

Action: Invite two Primary and two Secondary Headteachers to a future meeting and repeat the exercise and discuss further with young people. John Readman agreed to facilitate this.

Once again this was another thought provoking exercise delivered by LINX.

9. Education

CC Clarke raised the issue of children in care being moved from placement to placement and this having an effect on schooling which affects the child in not just moving placement but also in missing out on education and trying to fit in to a new school environment as well as home.

Amanda Hatton informed the Board that Children's Services are always looking at ways to improve outcomes for our Children in Care and Care Leavers. The exercise at Item 8 lets key people know that things are not working well and that this needs to be addressed. Also with regards moving placements and schools, it needs to be addressed as to how much of the voice of the young person has around this. Better use of the PEP plans needs looking at also. There also needs to be more joined up working with IROs/Social Workers.

Young people also commented that Social Workers should not change as regularly as they do, as there are better outcomes when the Social Worker knows the child.

Action: It was agreed that Amanda Hatton will start addressing these issues by raising them at the Social Work academy and involve Audrey Swann and young people in speaking with Social Workers on how important education is to children and young people in care – Amanda Hatton.

There will be a big focus this year on reading and raising the educational attainments around this and a scheme will be launched on 12 March 2018.

A lot of work is being done nationally as to how Corporate Parents can be more aspirational and role models to children in care. National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum is a very inspirational forum to be involved with and are currently looking at "Buddying".

There is a consultation event taking place at Lancaster University for the Local Offer and they are looking at NEET and inviting those approaching University age to look at the University.

As an authority we need to embrace Takeover Day and get more services involved and advertise it more to get people involved. An idea could be young people taking over and setting the agenda for County Leaving Care meetings.

Action: Let Amanda Hatton/John Readman know of any areas/services the young people would like to be involved with for Takeover Day – LINX.

The Children's Society are trying to recruit Independent Volunteers, especially males and it was suggested that this was advertised on the LCC Internet/Intranet.

Action: To contact LCC Communications team to request the Independent Volunteers advertisement is placed on the LCC Internet/Intranet – Kirsty Clarke.

10. Any Other Business

Name for Corporate Parenting Board

CC Clarke requested that the Board possibly look at an alternative name other than Corporate Parenting Board. It was agreed that the Board think about alternative names and email Sam Gorton, sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk with suggestions, which will be discussed, with LINX having the final decision, at the next meeting on a name for the Board that will sit under the CPB banner.

Action: All to consider a new name that will sit under the CPB title and Sam Gorton to ensure this is an item on the next agenda.

If there are any items that members of the Board wish to be on future agendas please email Sam Gorton, sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk.

Care Leavers Christmas Dinner 2017

Huge thanks to Sam Gorton who helped out at the Care Leavers Christmas Dinner at Barnardo's on Saturday, 23 December 2017, and made food parcels for all the Care Leavers that attended. Donations were received from Children's Social Care, Corporate Parenting Board members and Democratic Services. Natasha Wright was also praised for cooking the dinner for around 25 attendees and hopefully this will be replicated again in 2018.

PROUD

There has been over 200 nominations for this year's PROUD Event which will take place on 23 February 2018. This is a huge 115 nomination increase from 2017 which made the judging process even harder than in previous years. Huge thanks were given from the Board to the PROUD Task and Finish group for arranging this year's event and a special thanks to Natasha Wright who is leading on the event once again.

11. Revised Meeting Schedule 2018

The Board noted the amended meeting schedule and the Chair informed them that the meeting dates had changed from Thursday to various other days at the request of the young people as this would allow opportunities for those that could not attend on Thursdays to make meetings on alternative days.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

13. Performance Report

This item was for information.

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

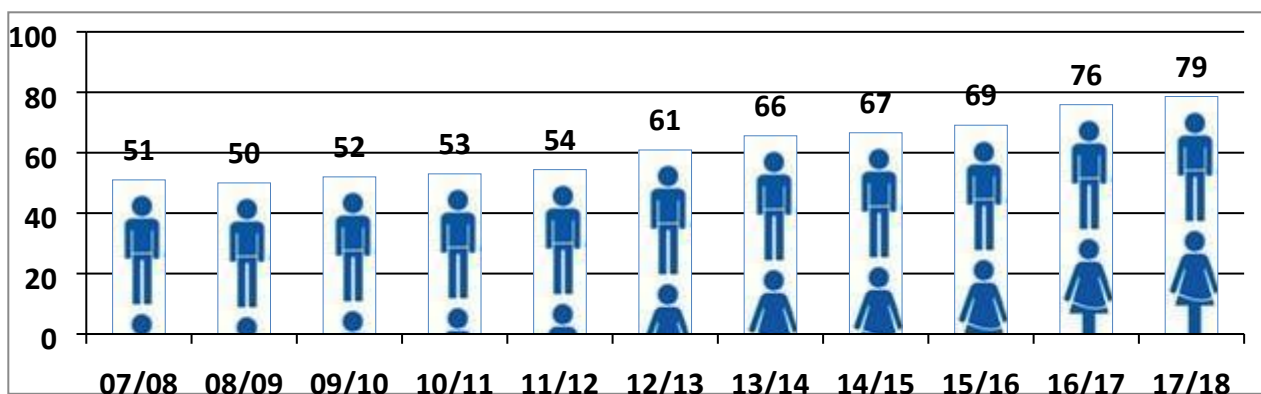
Pledged	Progress	Pledged By:
Employ three apprentices in the care leaver service and support them to achieve. To write the Participation Strategy by Christmas.		Hannah Peake
To get an apprenticeship.		Michelle – Young Person
Never let annoying adults get in the way of our ambitions, no matter how stupid, 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

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, MARCH 2018

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of February 2018 there were **1,949** 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 February but is higher than 12 months ago (February 2017 - 1845)
- There are **more** children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 62 out of 10,000 are currently looked after and more than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (65.5 out of 10,000).
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (86 out of 10,000).



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after decreased in February. 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	1930
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1370	1679	868	958	826	844
Initial Assessments	11288	11865	-	-	-	-
Core Assessments	5901	5724	-	-	-	-
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	--	--	1089	1253	1205	1260

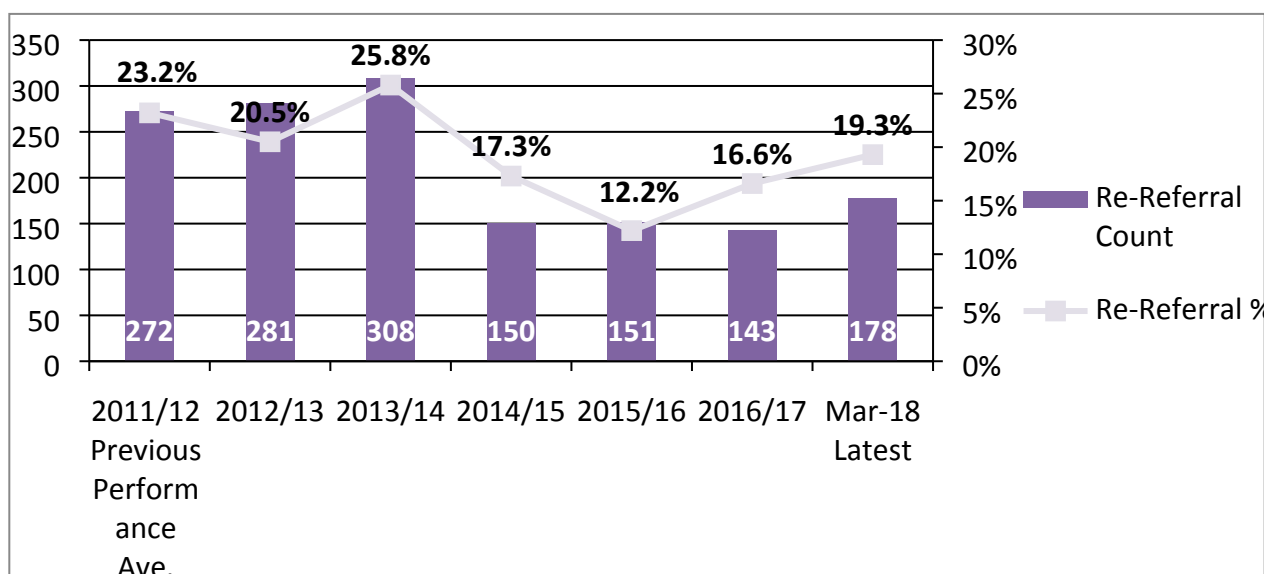
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 (1260) are higher than the monthly average experienced in 2016/17 (1205).
- ❖ Referrals per month have increased slightly in 2017/18, with an average of 844 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 **19.3%** in February 2018 which is an increase on the 2016/17 average rate. This is still a reduction on February-17 which saw **27.7%** 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 February 2018 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 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	February 18		
9.5%	6.8%	5.4%	4.9%	8.3%	9.5%	

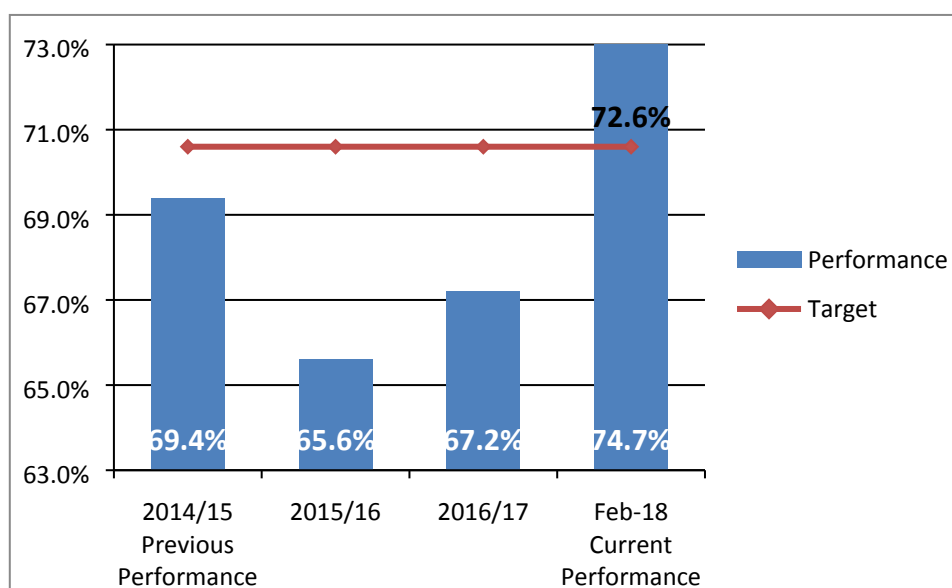
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance has improved in February, with a further 1.1% placements deemed stable from December-17.
- ❖ 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 **74** children looked after settled at least two years in their current placement.
- February 2018 information shows that almost **75** 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 December (**75** out of 100) and January (**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 and further in 17/18 with 74.7% currently stable.

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:

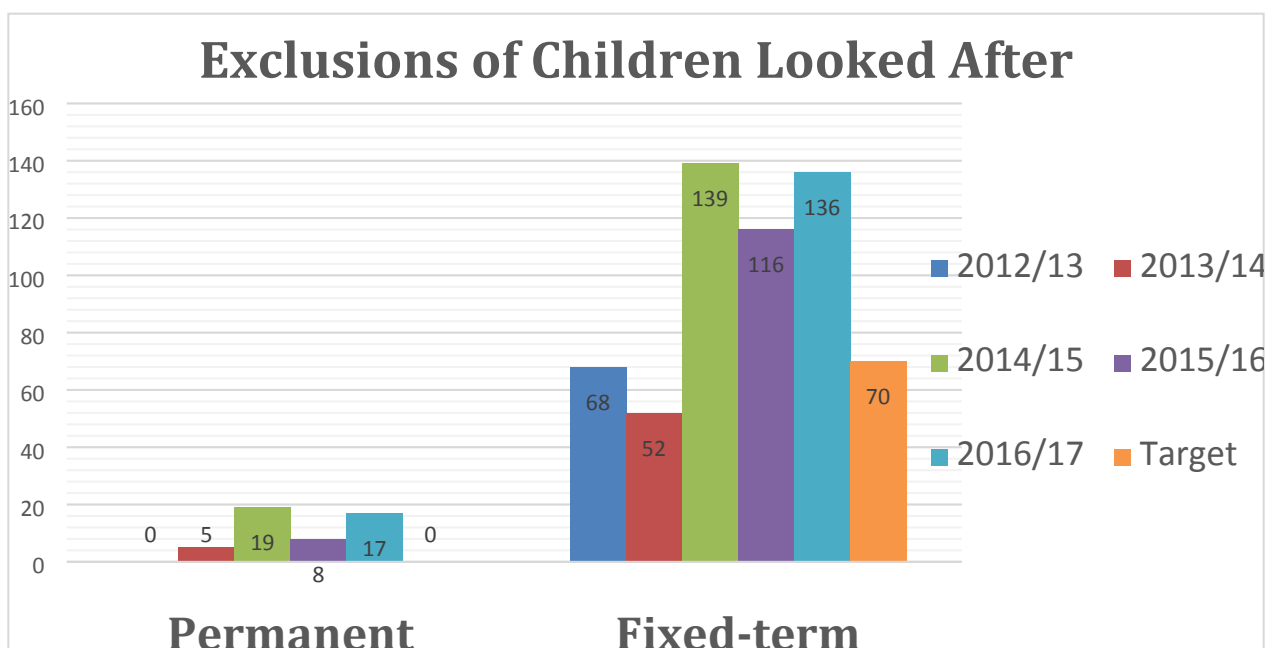
- ❖ Young people feel that the lower performance for secondary school pupils are a reflection of the increased age of these pupils and the free will exerted by those who are older leading them to miss school. The stress of placement moves and of being in care were also cited as reasons for non-attendance, 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, **2** as at 28th February 2018.
- 4.0% of eligible Lancashire CLA were known to the Youth Offending Team in Q3 2017/18 an increase from 2.1% in Q2.
- 23.8% of young people receiving YOT orders were CLA in Q3 2017/18, an increase of 4.0% from the previous quarter.

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

- **81** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (February 2018)

- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than the previous year (February 2017 - **95**)
- **77** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (February 2017)
- This position has regressed slightly back to the yearly low we saw in May-17 (**77** out of 100).

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 February 2018, 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:

- February 2018 data suggests **47.2%** 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 (December 2017)



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.