

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd May, 2018 at 6.00 pm in
Committee Room 'D' (The Henry Bolingbroke 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 Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Graham Nelson	- Fostering Forum
John Readman	- Lancashire County Council
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Lisa	- LINX Representative
Natasha	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Lorraine Moody	- Barnardo's
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardo's
Rebecca Wilkinson	- Barnardo's
Kat Mair	- Barnardo's

Other Attendees

Michelle Davies	- National Fostering Agency
Kirsty Clarke	- The Children's Society
Jane Hylton	- Leaving Care, LCC
Barbara Bath	- Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT Team, LCC
Roxanne McAllister	- Leaving Care, LCC
Lynda Pearson	- Leaving Care, LCC
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services
Peter Knowles	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Josephine Lee	- Children's Social Care, LCC

Ralph Rushworth	- Apprentice, LCC
Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick	- Apprentice, LCC
Omar Saddique	- The Children's Society
Monica Hewitt	- Leaving Care East, LCC
Deana Riley	- Leaving Care East, LCC

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor Stephen Clarke and Amanda Mansfield.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 14 March 2018

County Councillor Ian Brown informed the Board that the new Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services, Stephen Young, would be joining the Board as this was something he was involved in at Bolton Council.

3. Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference

The Board agreed the amended Terms of Reference and were informed that these would be presented to Cabinet for approval on 14 June 2018.

CC Brown updated the Board on an email query he had received from a care leaver regarding accommodation provision during the summer when Universities were in recess. CC Brown contacted Jane Hylton, Lancashire County Council and the situation was resolved and that the care leaver was happy with the outcome. CC Brown wished to thank Jane for her help with the matter.

4. What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX presented the attached PowerPoint to the Board on all the activities they had been involved with since the last meeting in March 2018.

The Board were informed that the Include Me 2 Service, Barnardo's were applying for Investors in Children accreditation and that young people had met with the panel.

Resolved: Barnardo's to inform the Board at a future meeting of the outcome of the accreditation, as they were a commissioned service by Lancashire County Council.

Three young people from LINX were members of the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) and a report following their campaign on housing and homelessness would be presented to the Houses of Parliament on 13 June 2018.

Young Inspectors Update

The attached Powerpoint was presented and there were no issues arising from it.

5. Corporate Parenting Strategy

Peter Knowles and Roxanne McAllister, Lancashire County Council presented the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy to the Board.

The attached PowerPoint explained the seven principles from the Children and Social Work Act 2017 that the strategy is based upon. From those principles Lancashire have devised the following nine key priorities:

Priority 1: Ensure Children can remain safely at home

'Our Priority is to ensure that early intervention is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention'

Priority 2: Care Leaver Local offer

'Our Priority is to ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of service to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.

Priority 3: Education, Training and Employment

'Our Priority is to close the attainment gap between those children and Young People that the Local Authority cares for and those that are cared for in their own families'.

Priority 4: A Suitable Place to live and be cared for

'Our Priority is to ensure that the children and Young People we care for have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.

Priority 5: Health and Wellbeing

'Our Priority is to improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.

Priority 6: Money and Financial Support

'Our Priority is to ensure that Young People have enough money to provide for their needs whilst in care and after they have left care and ensure that they are supported financially to establish their own homes'.

Priority 7: Children are protected from harm and or Risk of Exploitation

'Our Priority is to ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.

Priority 8: Children in Care and Care leaver celebration

'Our Priority is to ensure that the children we looked after and have looked after are recognised for their achievements'.

Priority 9: Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services

'Our Priority is to ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'. Nothing about me without me.

The Board were then asked to discuss on their tables the priorities and comment on them. Feedback from the group work is attached.

Members were informed that most work had been done on the Health and Wellbeing priority (Priority 5). Lots of work had been done on the other priorities also, but Priority 5 was the main one.

John Readman asked the Board if they felt whether there was a 10th priority which was supporting leisure/play and that children in care/care leavers should enjoy themselves.

Resolved: That the Board agreed there should be a 10th priority and that this should also be incorporated into the revised pledge.

The next steps were to recreate the pledge with the help of LINX. A young person asked that three separate pledges for children in care, those with special educational needs and care leavers should be considered, not just having one. Further discussions would be had around the feasibility of having three separate pledges.

The revised Pledge would be presented to the Board at a future meeting along with the final approved version of the Corporate Parenting Strategy which would take into consideration comments received from this meeting, would be presented for approval at Cabinet in September 2018.

6. Care Leaver Local Offer

Jane Hylton, Lancashire County Council gave feedback on the care leaver local offer consultation 2018 which took place at Lancaster University on 15 February 2018 and was also available online for seven weeks. Young people were encouraged to complete this either by Social Workers, Personal Advisers, carers, locality care leaver groups, care leaver forum and LINX.

The attached PowerPoint which was presented by Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick and Ralph Rushworth was a snapshot of what they felt were the most important quotes from the care leavers under the subject areas of health and wellbeing, accommodation, education, employment and training and participation.

For the consultation and feedback to be effective for a meaningful local offer, the information needs to be fed back to Senior Leadership Team, elected members and district Chief Executives.

Two care leavers that were working on the local offer have so far presented the findings to the Purposeful Practice Board, attended by the Chief Executive. This would be further rolled out to the localities. Apprentices update care leavers on the progress of the local offer via social media, LINX, Care leaver forum and the locality care leaver groups. Consultation findings have been fed back to the Local Offer Task and Finish group-multi agency representation and production of a young person's friendly animation on 'What is a Care Leaver Local Offer' was due to be finalised by mid-June. Apprentices would arrange co-design workshops with the locality care leaver groups.

It was envisaged that the Local Offer would be published in October 2018, however, the Board were reminded that it would always be evolving with information added to it over time.

Various points were raised by members of the Board:

- i) There was still a lack of males undertaking the Independent Visitor role and the Children's Society asked that colleagues encourage care leavers to take on this role which would also give them an interest at the weekends.
- ii) Care leavers need more encouragement to study abroad.
- iii) British Heart Foundation was offering care leavers the ability to use their setting up home allowances with them.
- iv) 9am-5pm services do not work for care leavers.
- v) Create ASDAN groups and include foster carers.
- vi) Buddy up foster carers with care leavers.
- vii) Look at pre-planning activities for local areas.

County Councillor Ian Brown thanked Aaron and Ralph for their brilliant presentation.

7. Children's Society

Kirsty Clarke from The Children's Society gave a brief overview of the Children's Rights Service, common advocacy themes and a reminder on how the referral process works. The PowerPoint presented is attached.

The Independent Visitor scheme was currently being piloted now up to the age of 25 years.

As reported earlier in the meeting, there was a shortage of male Independent Visitors. One council asked their Corporate Parenting Board members to refer one person to be an Independent Visitor, however this cannot be Councillors, staff in Social Care or Foster Carers. If anybody would like further details on becoming an Independent Visitor or know of anybody who would like to be one, to contact Kirsty Clarke, email kirsty.clarke@childrenssociety.org.uk.

From 1 August 2018, after lobbying nationally for apprenticeship bursaries, the provider would now get £1000 to be paid to the apprentice. Arrangements on how this would be paid to the apprentice are still in development.

Omar Saddique, Safer Families, Lancashire presented the Safer Families element from the attached PowerPoint. He informed the Board about the tailored training packages which was raising the awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers in Lancashire. These can be delivered to schools, colleges, universities, community groups and any other organisation that requests training. If anybody requires any further information then they can contact Omar, email omar.saddique@childrenssociety.org.uk.

8. Staying Put Policy

Following on from the last meeting held on 14 March 2018, the Fostering Service had been raising further awareness on the Staying Put policy.

The attached PowerPoint clarifies the Staying Put policy and that recommendations had been made to Central Government and Ofsted to develop a framework for delivery of an equivalent 'Staying Put' support to be made available for young people in residential care. For those young people in residential care, young people were encouraged to stay in touch with their residential homes and maintain close relationships.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business received.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Thursday, 26 July 2018 at 1.30pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston. This is the young person led meeting.

11. Performance Report

This item was for information.

1 young person attended the young peoples panel in London to interview the new chair of trustee

1 young person attended the Foster Care Support Group

5 young people attended the care Leavers Forum in March

4 young people attended the east LINX meeting in April

4 young people attended the pre monitoring meeting, and 4 attending the Annual Review meeting

6 young people attended the April Care Leavers Forum meeting



9 young people attended the Investors in Children Meeting

7 young people attended LCC speed interviews

1 young person attended the BECOME meeting

1 young person attended the young inspectors meeting

4 young people attended the Primary session in the east

4 young people attended the east LINX meeting

2 young people attended the Participation Conference Planners Meeting

2 young people
attended April Young
Inspectors meeting

2 young people
attended the CRAE
residential trip





Children Looked After Young Inspectors Update May 2018



Since the last Corporate Parenting
Board Meeting the young
inspectors have inspected all 6
provisders



The young inspectors are currently working on the revisit questions



The Young Inspectors will now
contact the 6 provider and
arrange a follow up inspection

The young people will
feed this back to
Lancashire County Council
and the CPB with their
reports after the follow up
inspetcions.

The Draft Corporate Parenting Strategy

Children and Social Work Act 2017

Seven Principles

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners

Children and Social Work Act 2017

Seven Principles

- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

Our 9 Key priorities

Priority 1: Ensure Children can remain safely at home

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that early intervention is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention'.*

Priority 2: Care Leaver Local offer

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of service to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.*

Priority 3: Education, Training and Employment

- *'Our Priority is to close the attainment gap between those children and Young People that the Local Authority cares for and those that are cared for in their own families'*

Our 9 Key priorities

Priority 4: A Suitable Place to live and be cared for

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that the children and Young People we care for have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.*

Priority 5: Health and Wellbeing

- *'Our Priority is to improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.*

Priority 6: Money and Financial Support

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that Young People have enough money to provide for their needs whilst in care and after they have left care and ensure that they are supported financially to establish their own homes'.*

Our 9 Key priorities

Priority 7: Children are protected from harm and or Risk of Exploitation

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.*

Priority 8: Children in Care and Care leaver celebration

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that the children we looked after and have looked after are recognised for their achievements'.*

Priority 9: Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services

- *'Our Priority is to ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'. Nothing about me without me.*

What do you think?

- Open table discussion on The Key 9 Priorities.

Next Steps

- Pledge
- Children In Care refreshed Offer
- Care Leavers Offer
- Period of consultation required... How long?
- Can we get to Cabinet for sign off July and Launch new Strategy Sept 2018 or do we take to Cabinet Sept for Launch in the Autumn?

Guidance on Corporate Parenting

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-corporate-parenting-principles-to-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers>

CPB Feedback on the Nine Priorities – 22 May 2018

Priority 1: Ensure Children can remain safely at home

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that early intervention is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention'.

CPB Comments

- Professional language is not very user friendly. 'Support' could be used instead of 'intervention'.
- How will early intervention be started and maintained? We want to stop families being passed around between services/professionals.
- Perhaps "avoid" rather than "prevent" or reword to make it a positive statement – "Keep families together".

Priority 2: Care Leaver Local offer

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of service to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.

CPB Comments

- What does "offer" mean?
- Remove jargon.
- Include local services (accessible to all).
- Ensure our care leavers know what is available and how and where to access it.

Priority 3: Education, Training and Employment

- 'Our Priority is to close the attainment gap between those children and Young People that the Local Authority cares for and those that are cared for in their own families'

CPB Comments

- Less emphasis on exams, more on pushing talent, what subjects the young people enjoy. Too much pressure to pass GCSEs.
- Need to include other organisations than local authority.
- Needs to be in plain English – aiding ALL our children to be **their** best.

Priority 4: A Suitable Place to live and be cared for

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that the children and Young People we care for have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.

CPB Comments

- Focus on individual.
- Take responsibility rather than passing around.
- Be flexible.
- Quality not quantity.
- Young person's voice
- Access to support
- Early transparent planning

Priority 5: Health and Wellbeing

- 'Our Priority is to improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.

CPB Comments

- Encourage health checks.
- Check mental health/anxiety assessment to help beforehand.
- Prevention.
- Healthy lifestyle/healthy mind – acknowledging both are as important.
- Ongoing every changing.
- Accessible - easy to access.

Priority 6: Money and Financial Support

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that Young People have enough money to provide for their needs whilst in care and after they have left care and ensure that they are supported financially to establish their own homes'.

CPB Comments

- Life skills as they grow.
- The worth of money.
- Their entitlement throughout their lives.
- Individual and appropriate.

Priority 7: Children are protected from harm and or Risk of Exploitation

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.
- Rewrite in plain English.
- Be aware many services stops access at 18 years.

CPB Comments

- Important priority – ensure everyone works together.
- Keep these priorities at the centre of the work.
- How? How do you monitor if they are doing it correctly?

Priority 8: Children in Care and Care leaver celebration

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that the children we looked after and have looked after are recognised for their achievements'.

CPB Comments

- PROUD – good for LINX and Children in Care.
- Care Leavers to have something specific for them,
- Needs to be for all our looked after children and recognise their contribution as well as their achievements.
- Soft skills and hard work.
- Needs to be ongoing not just annual for each child.

Priority 9: Children and Young People have a voice in the way we deliver our services

- 'Our Priority is to ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'. Nothing about me without me.

CPB Comments

- Listening, then acting, then feeding back.
- Centre of the work.
- Hear by Rights – You Said, We Did.
- Needs to be a higher priority perhaps Number 2.
- Ask for more varied options.
- Needs to be a genuine effort.
- Include in commissioning decisions and inspection.
- Adverse range of tools to capture voice (Sincerely You).

General Comments on Priorities

- Priorities do not mention how well professionals work together. Create and maintain links in order to reach outcomes for children and young people.
- Also no mention of enjoyment/leisure/opportunities for fun/social relationships to be formed.
- How have we done against the last pledge? We need to compare this to the new one.
 - i) What impact did it have?
 - ii) How do we measure how well the pledge is working?
 - iii) It needs to have meaning
- Look are reordering priorities.

LANCASHIRE LOCAL OFFER CARE LEAVERS AGED 16-25

Care leaver local offer consultation 2018

Why consult care leavers ?

The government say we have to.

To give young people a voice for change.

To get it right.

Lived experience.

To get involved in Something Big!



How we did it

Online
Questionnaire



We had a
consultation day
at Lancaster
university



Participation
events



What have care leavers told us

Health and Wellbeing

Relationships

Education/Employment/Training

Accommodation

Participation

What are we getting right/
not getting right about
information and support

What care leavers said about Health and Wellbeing

"identify emotional support earlier before going into independence"

"Need better transition between services-child care to adults"

"mental Health services need more training on the support care leavers need
.....and issues effecting care leavers"

"want information on how to access leisure services"

"Healthy living Drop-in for care leavers"



What care leavers said about relationships

"I would like to hear more from other care leavers about what it feels like to live independently and get help from them. Social workers are always busy and don't know anything about leaving care"

"Would like out of hrs groups or activity groups at weekend's and across the county so we can all attend them"

"Participation groups run by care leavers at weekends-especially for lonely care leavers"

"Peer-Peer support from other care leavers"

"Independent visitors up to age 25"

What Care Leavers said about EET

- “care leavers need more opportunities to visit universities”(Partnership work is currently progressing within Lancashire)

“Need summer schools”

- “I would like other care leavers and social workers to know about the employment and support team. They have helped me into an apprenticeship”

“Careers advice at the right time, 15-17 years of age”

- “I think it would be great if care leavers in apprenticeships received support such as the bursary and incentive reward, like what you get if you go to uni because apprentice’s are educational and lead onto employment”

What care leavers said about accommodation

"Need smaller accommodation for care leavers like student accommodation, don't want to live on my own. Staying Put to 25 and what about residential"??

"Accommodation more suited to the needs of care leavers"

"This is where I need a lot of help, don't like the foyer, too big. I would like to live in smaller accommodation with another care leaver so we can help each other. There's not enough options for housing. Like to see training flats so this could have prepared me better. Care doesn't prepare you for living on your own"

Need more preparation with practical skills like DIY" Tenancy training as it is a mind field all the jargon"! SUHA-not 'normal' how this is spent!



What Care Leavers said about Participation

"Participation groups run by care leavers at weekends- especially for lonely care leavers"

I want more information about what a forum is, I know Barnardo's runs one but its too far for me to travel. Want more activities in evening and weekend but leaving care don't work then"

"Some care leavers have children, please consider a crèche when planning things"

"Would like out of hrs groups or activity groups at weekend's and across the county so we can all attend them"

"LCC should get young people involved younger-show the importance of having a voice"

What are we getting right for care leavers?

Support and Information

“There seems to be more focus in providing better services for care leavers including PA training and better communication”

“ Material and advisory support on your part is great”

“Great support financially if in need. Emotional support has always been given when I’ve needed it-don’t make you feel like you’re talking to a professional just doing their job”

“Supportive and consistent worker”

“I like the information on the Youth Zone webpage.

My PA keeps me informed”

“Giving young people information about different organisations and groups. Help with housing and finding jobs. You’ve managed to help a lot and improve my future”

What are we not getting right for care leavers?

Support and information

"I think my PA is good but don't see her as much as I'd like to. She is very busy all the time. If she is supposed to be like a parent to me why can't I see her more often? You need more workers"

"Going about things the wrong way using wrong words"

"I had a lot of problems understanding how to pay bills and apply for benefits before leaving residential into independence I was never shown"

"Social workers need to know more about leaving care stuff"

" Don't like how we spend the setting up home allowance, Don't like how we spend the setting up .

Conclusion

- **A New Belongings Vision for a Gold Standard Leaving Care Service**
- **Cared For**-meet the needs of care leavers, young and old!!!
- **Cared about**-Individual care leavers know there are people he or she can count on for support, help and advice when they need it-now and in the future
- **Able to care for themselves**-Build resilience, and better preparation for leaving care and beyond!

Lancashire Children's Rights

Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service

**The
Children's
Society**

Kirsty Clarke – Service Manager
Shagufta Khan – Advocate
Brenda Entwistle – Advocate
Cindy Moseley – Volunteer Co-ordinator (IV)
Matthew Stone – Volunteer Co-ordinator (IV)

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

Please email advocacy referrals to CRL@childsoc.org.uk

Please email IV referrals to

IVLancashire@childrenssociety.org.uk

Our Aim

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

The service has operated since April 2000.

Summary of advocacy service 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

- 189 new advocacy referrals received
- 58 cases remained open from previous year
- 13 referrals not eligible
- 56 referrals did not progress
- 88% of 105 closures showed improvement in self-assessments

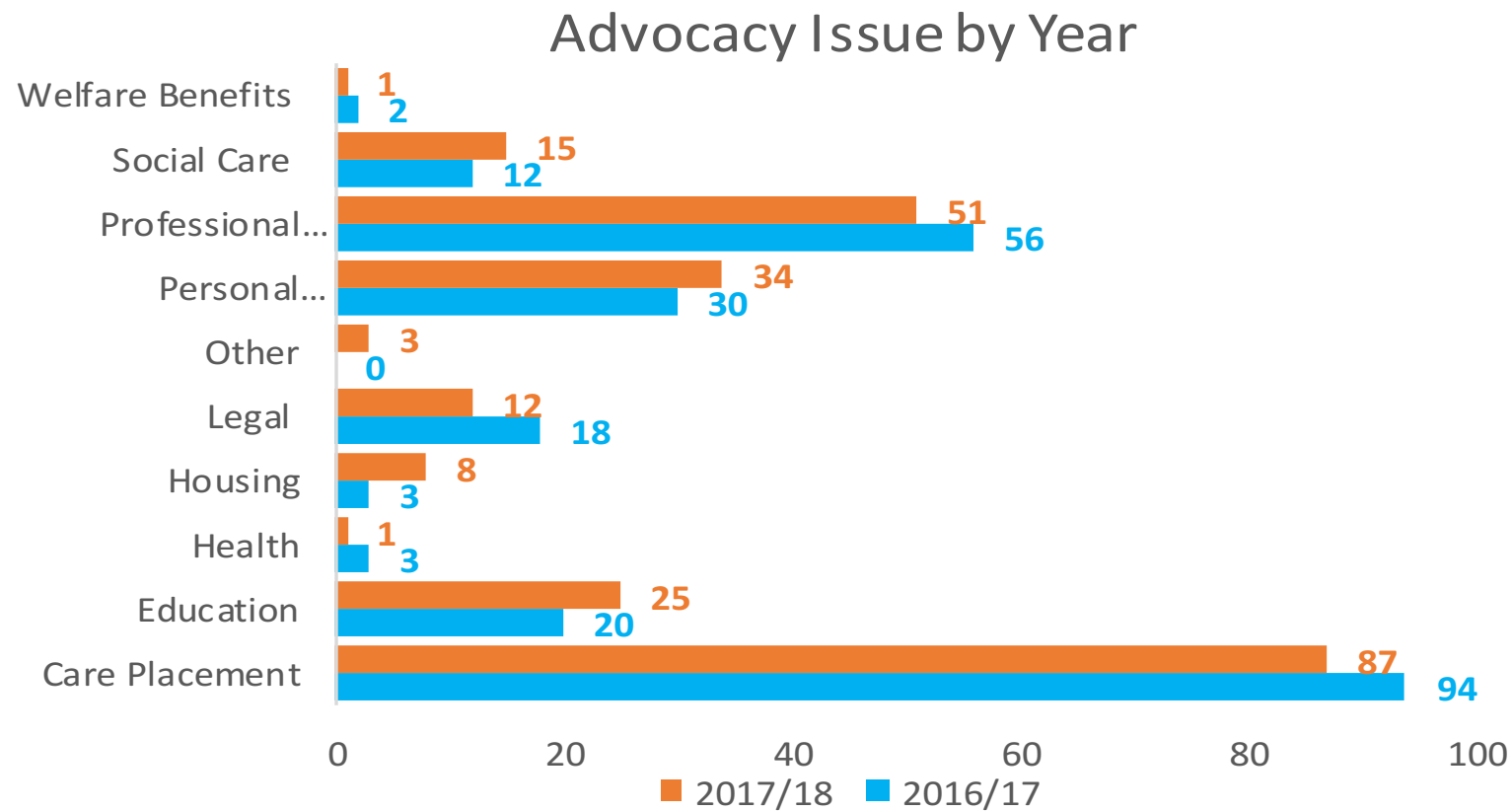
“She was my voice & fought for my rights”

‘Attended my meetings and gave me the voice I never had before’

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

“Because you getting things sorted”

Advocacy Issues 2016/17 – 2017/18



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

Summary of Independent Visitor service 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

- 45 new referrals received
- 57 cases open from previous year
- 34 referrals did not progress (not requested by CYP or change in circumstances)
- 1 referral not eligible
- 55 matches within the year

“My IV is great we do fun things and he is always happy he makes me laugh.”

“He listens and lets me speak and express my feelings”

“I can speak to her when I need to talk to other people who are not my family”

“Just talking and listening”

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

Safer Families – Lancashire

*Supporting refugees and
asylum seekers.*

**The
Children's
Society**

Omar Saddique– Service Manager
Simon Husband– Project Worker
Zena Ballout –Project Worker
David Graham– Volunteer Co-ordinator (IV)

Safer Families, Unit 12 East way Business Village, Olivers
Place, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9WT
(01772 759233)

Please email saferfamilies@childrenssociety.org.uk

Intensive 1:1 Support

- Improving emotional wellbeing, friendships and having a voice
- For parents and young people
- Support navigating complex systems
- Advocacy role for age assessments

Group Work

- Learning Together workshops
- Youth programmes
- Adult Programmes

Raising Awareness Sessions across Lancashire

- Schools, colleges, universities
- Community groups
- Agencies

To help the wider community understand the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers in Lancashire.

Volunteer Recruitment

- To recruit, manage and sustain volunteers to support and deliver group work and drop in sessions.

Please email saferfamilies@childrenssociety.org.uk