

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Brown

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 22 May 2018 and 26 July 2018 (Pages 1 - 16)

County Councillor Brown

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

3. LINX Activity (25 mins)

LINX

To receive an activity on Mental Health.

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

County Councillor Brown and other Elected Members

To note feedback from work undertaken by the Chair of the Board and our Elected Members as part of their role on the CPB since the last meeting.

5. Ofsted Update (5 mins)

Amanda Hatton

To receive an update from the recent inspection. Report can be viewed [here](#).

6. Corporate Parenting Strategy including the Pledge (15 mins)

Peter Knowles

To receive an update.

7. Care Leaver Local Offer (15 mins)

(Pages 17 - 36)

Jane Hylton, Peter Knowles

To receive an update.

8. Young People's Benchmarking Forum (15 mins)

Jane Hylton, Ralph Rushworth, Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick

To discuss four questions that were raised about access to care records and the support to understand them and deal with some of the emotions raised by reading them and also an update from the meeting held in September 2018.

9. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (25 mins)

LINX

To receive feedback on the work our young people have been doing including the Performance Report, what they have been doing since the last meeting and the Become Policy.

10. Any Other Business

County Councillor Brown

To receive any other business.

11. Date and Time of Future Meetings

County Councillor Brown

Dates and times of future meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, 27 November 2018 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Wednesday, 23 January 2019 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Wednesday, 22 May 2019 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'D' – Henry Bolingbroke Room, County Hall, Preston

Information Item

12. Performance Report

(Pages 37 - 46)

Performance report for September 2018.

Agenda Item 2

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.

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 26th July, 2018 at 1.30 pm in
Committee Room 'C' (The Duke of Lancaster Room) - County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
Councillor Bernard Dawson	- Lancashire County Council
Amanda Hatton	- Director of Children's Services, LCC
Iqra	- LINX Representative
Beth	- LINX Representative
Tash	- LINX Representative
Nathan	- LINX Representative
Lee	- LINX Representative
Brad	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Lorraine Moody	- Barnardo's
Roxanne McAllister	- Leaving Care, LCC
Dylan Williams	- Barnardo's
Tracy Corban	- Leaving Care, LCC
Rebecca King	- Barnardo's

Other Attendees

Jane Hylton	- Leaving Care, LCC
Barbara Bath	- Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT Team, LCC
Tracy Corban	- Leaving Care, LCC
Ralph Rushworth	- LCC Apprentice
Aaron Walmsley- Fishwick	- LCC Apprentice
Reece Hobin	- LCC Apprentice
Dillan McLardy	- LCC Apprentice
Lucy Parry	- LCC Apprentice
Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC

1. Welcome and Introductions

County Councillor Ian Brown welcomed everybody to the meeting especially Amanda Hatton.

County Councillor Ian Brown updated the Board that he is still liaising with Timpsons. Following a recent meeting with the Permanence and Corporate Parenting Board where County Councillor Ian Brown raised concerns as to why young people could not use their setting up home allowance to purchase items from the YMCA or British Heart Foundation stores, it was explained that the reasons why was due to procurement rules, however, officers would look at ways to amend the rules and feedback to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Action: Permanence and Corporate Parenting Board to report back to the Corporate Parenting Board on the setting up home allowance being viable for young people to spend at YMCA or British Heart Foundation stores.

The previous Chair of the Board Sue Prynn, had requested if two care leavers would be willing to talk to the Department of Work and Pensions with regards their experience with them. Dylan Williams agreed to liaise with County Councillor Ian Brown who would then inform Sue Prynn.

Action: Dylan Williams, Barnardo's to speak with County Councillor Ian Brown with regards two young people meeting with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Amanda Hatton thanked the young people from LINX for their well wishes during her recent absence and informed them it was good to be back.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy would be going to Cabinet in October and at the next meeting there would be a focus on the strategy and the local offer.

Action: Sam Gorton to ensure that the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Local Offer was on the agenda for the meeting in September.

Following this brief update, County Councillor Brown then handed the meeting over to the young people and Barnardo's.

2. Become Policies

In the absence of the young person, this item would be carried forward to the next meeting in September.

Action: Barnardo's to ensure that the Become Policies item be added to the young people's element of the next Board meeting.

3. LINX Update

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

4. Activity - Transition from Social Worker to Personal Advisor

In groups the Board were asked to discuss what the transition from social worker to Personal Advisor should look like. Feedback from the groups is attached.

Young people also commented that:

They felt it was important for the Social Worker to introduce them to their Personal Advisor.

Pathways should start at 14 rather than 16 like they currently do.

A young person gave feedback on his experience and at 16 years of age he felt it was very rushed and also at that time he was dealing with a breakdown in placement, as well as GCSEs. His Personal Advisor was approaching retirement, so he would be getting a new one and would have to reiterate everything again. At 16 he did not want to engage. At 17 years of age, he met a new Personal Advisor who took the gentle approach with him and met in a neutral place and had a general chat and the Personal Advisor shared things about herself too, which made the young person feel comfortable and had stuck by him and he felt that this worked.

Young people agreed that there was no one way for transitioning as each young person are their own individual.

Young people were thanked for their frank and honest opinion on sharing their experiences with the Board.

Lorraine Moody agreed to take the feedback and use it when training new Social Workers at the Academy.

Action: LINX and Barnardo's to use the feedback when delivering training to new Social Workers at the Social Work Academy and for the Permanence and Corporate Parenting Board to action.

5. Young Inspectors Update

The Young Inspectors presented the attached PowerPoint to the Board.

Amanda Hatton requested that one of our residential homes be inspected.

Young Inspectors confirmed that they arranged their visits with the homes, however the Board felt that they should turn up just like other inspections that take place and not give prior warning.

A query was raised as to whether this could be rolled out to supported accommodation and Barnardo's agreed to take this to the next Care Leavers Forum for discussion and report back to the Board at the next meeting in September. Roxanne McAllister agreed to send details of supported accommodation contacts to Barnardo's.

- Action:**
- i) Young Inspectors to consider inspecting with prior arrangements.
 - ii) Amanda Hatton to send details to Dylan Williams on her request for a residential home to be inspected by the Young Inspectors.
 - iii) Young Inspectors/Barnardo's to discuss with the Care Leavers Forum the possibility of inspecting Supported Accommodation.
 - iv) Roxanne McAllister to forward details of supported accommodation contacts to Barnardo's.

6. Young People's Benchmarking Forum

Ralph Rushworth tabled a feedback report from the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum which is attached to the minutes. At the event questions were raised about access to care records and the support to understand them and deal with some of the emotions raised by reading them. Ralph asked the Board if the following questions could be discussed at the next Board meeting in September:

- i) What is the process for care leavers accessing records in your local authority?
- ii) What effect can accessing records have on care leavers and why is it important to have support in place?
- iii) Who provides support to care leavers around accessing in your local authority?
- iv) Is there enough training and awareness for staff – Leaving Care Team and partner organisations around care leaves accessing records?

The Board agreed that the questions could be discussed at the next meeting.

- Action:** Sam Gorton to ensure that there was an item on the next agenda to discuss the four questions as detailed above.

7. Care Leavers Local Offer

Dylan McLardy and Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick, LCC Apprentices, updated the Board on the Local Offer and what had been happening since the last meeting. A meeting had been held with the Communications Team to discuss the website and to categorise issues that Care Leavers face into 12 sections. The Board were asked to look at the attached list of categories and ensure they had captured everything. The Board felt that ASDAN – Preparing for Independence should appear on the list.

Care leavers were also asked to fill out the attached Personas which would be used to get a snapshot of the audience for the Local Offer, eg what type of device would they be using – phone, iPad, laptop, what type of information would they be searching for, and the responses would aid the Communications Team to develop a more young person friendly website for the Local Offer.

If there were any further updates, the Board were asked to contact Aaron or Dylan on the details provided on the document attached to the minutes.

8. Update from Care Leavers Forum

The following headings have arisen from the Care Leavers Forum for the attention of the Corporate Parenting Board. Members of the Board commented on issues raised.

Council Tax

Some Care Leavers had received letters from District Councils with regards non-payment of Council Tax. As Council Tax was now exempt for Care Leavers this had raised concerns. Roxanne McAllister informed the Board that there had been a communication error in the process and letters had been written to all District Councils to correct this.

Action: Roxanne McAllister agreed to follow this up and to ensure this had now been rectified.

Housing (Rent)/Universal Credit – Waiting List

Young people raised issues with regards housing benefit and that it was not being backdated and that they were expected to pay for rent up front.

This needed raising with Department for Work and Pensions.

Jane Hylton informed the Board that there was a piece of work being carried out by The Children's Society which still needed to go through Treasury to extend the single room rate from 22 years to 25 years old.

Young people felt that the Local Authority should pay up front and also forward to the Department for Work and Pensions regular information on young people who were turning 18 years of age within the next 10 weeks, this would then enable everything to be in place on the young person's 18th birthday, so they were not losing out.

Support for Single Parents

Feedback from young people was that they were not aware of anything available in the Central area on supporting single parents. This was something that came under the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and the Board felt that Debbie

Duffell, Head of Service, should be invited to a future meeting of the Board to raise awareness of support for single parents that was available.

Action: Sam Gorton to ensure this was added to the forward plan and raised at a future agenda setting meeting.

Pathway Plans

Young people asked if the wording on pathway plans did not refer to they/them, instead be more personalised ie he/she. Roxanne McAllister agreed to feedback to Personal Advisors and include in their training.

Action: Roxanne McAllister to request that personal wording was used on pathway plans and referred to young people as he/she not they/them by the Personal Advisors and include in training packages.

Contact between siblings

Some children in care felt that they were being punished if they were not allowed to have contact with siblings. If there was a reason as to why contact was not allowed, then this should be explained, so they can understand why. This needs be raised at the Social Worker Academy, and with Social Workers that answers need explaining to the young people.

Action: To include in training at the Social Work Academy that young people need to be given a reason if sibling contact is not allowed and explained to them so they understand.

9. Activity - Mental Health

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next Board meeting in September.

Action: Barnardo's to ensure that the Mental Health activity be added to the young people's element of the next Board meeting.

10. Last 12 months Update

Young people updated the Board on two big activities that took place in the last 12 months at the Corporate Parenting Board.

Taking Young People Out of School Lessons for Meetings

Young people raised the issue about being taken out of lessons at school for meetings by Independent Reviewing Officers/Social Workers and that they were unhappy with this as they felt they were missing out on education and that they were being singled out and made to feel different to other pupils in the classroom. An activity was carried out at the Corporate Parenting Board meeting on 25 January 2018, where young people presented a quiz and whilst this was

happening, members of the Board were removed from the room, then brought back in, then were engaged in conversation with other young people who wanted to know where they had been and what for.

Following this activity, Amanda Hatton wrote to all Social Workers and Independent Reviewing Officers, asking them to avoid meeting with young people in school time and removing them from lessons.

Feedback from the young people was that this had now stopped and young people were not removed from lessons.

Young people were reminded that if this started to happen again, then they should raise it as soon as possible.

Care Leavers Sanctions

At the Corporate Parenting Board meeting on 27 July 2017, a representative from the Department of Work and Pensions attended and the young people carried out an activity and also raised concerns with regards benefit sanctions. Following this meeting, the Department for Work and Pensions had worked closely with Lancashire County Council and Barnardo's to support Care Leavers and Dylan Williams reported that they had been liaising with Barnardo's on a regular basis to ensure that the young people had no issues.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 26 September 2018 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

County Councillor Ian Brown thanked the young people for their hard work in chairing and presenting the meeting.

Corporate Parenting Board

Meeting to be held on 26 September 2018

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Electoral Division affected: All

Care Leaver Local Offer

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Jane Hylton, Telephone: 07768 324756, Leaving Care Development Officer,

Email: jane.hylton@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report is to give a brief update on the progress of the Care Leaver Local Offer. The purpose of a local offer is to provide care leavers information on their Rights and Entitlements along with what services/support they can access in the area they live. Young people have been consulted on the local offer and area they would like support with.

The Government have stipulated that all local authorities will publish the offer by the end of 2018. Lancashire will aim to launch their local offer during Care Leaver week at the end of October.

Lancashire has produced with the help of care leavers an animation which will explain clearly what a local offer is. This will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Board and is already accessible on the Youth Zone.

A mock local offer will also be presented for comments and feedback from LINX – Lancashire's Children in Care Council.

Recommendation

The Board are asked to note the update on the local offer.

Background and Advice

- In May 2018, a local offer update was presented to the Corporate Parenting Board by Ralph Rushworth and Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick (Lancashire County Council apprentices) this included feedback from the care leaver consultation events.

- Cabinet members and partner agencies were given feedback on the areas young people felt like they needed more support and what they would like to see included in a local offer.

As no decisions are required for the local offer, the DfE guidance for Local authorities is attached at Appendix A for reference.



Department
for Education

Local offer guidance

Guidance for local authorities

February 2018

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Summary

About this guidance

This guidance is about Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority (see further information on partner agencies below), including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.

Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. The local offer should set out what support all local authority departments will provide (not just Children's Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles.

Expiry or review date

The guidance will be reviewed on an annual basis but will not be revised unless it is considered that it requires amendment.

What legislation does this guidance refer to?

This guidance refers to:

- Sections 1 to 3 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for local authorities and others who contribute to services provided to care leavers.

The publication of a local offer is a requirement for all local authorities in England.

For the purpose of this guidance, a local authority in England means:

- A county council in England
- A district council
- A London borough council
- The Common Council, of the City of London (in their capacity as a local authority)

- The Council of the Isles of Scilly; and
- A combined authority established under section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Main points

Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority (see further information on partner agencies below), including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.

Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. The local offer should set out what support all local authority departments will provide (not just Children's Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles

The local offer

Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers. The local offer should provide information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers from the local authority (see further information on partner agencies below), including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide.

Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care leavers. The local offer should set out what support all local authority departments will provide (not just Children's Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles

Details of the services and support that should be included

The local offer should include details of the services and support that may assist care leavers in, or moving to, adulthood and independent living that the local authority provides in relation to:

- **Health and wellbeing:** This will include services that teach about, support and enable good health and wellbeing. It should include links to, or information about, universal health services that might be particularly relevant to care leavers, as well as specific health and wellbeing services targeted at them.
- **Relationships:** having strong and supportive relationships is crucially important for care leavers as they move to independent adult life. Local authorities will want to consider the services and/ or support that is available to help care leavers develop and maintain positive social networks and to understand what positive relationships look like.
- **Education and training:** Care leavers should be supported to access appropriate education or training that will enable them to fulfil their goals. This will include the statutory support available to care leavers, such as the £2,000 bursary for care leavers in Higher Education, as well as any other support from the local authority; and signpost to universal information such as careers advice and financial support for young people.

- **Employment:** this will include information to care leavers about general employment support, such as careers support and links to local Job Centre Plus. Local authorities should also include any other employment support that they or partners deliver that is specifically available to care leavers, for example, any apprenticeships that the local authority offers, in particular where such opportunities are ring-fenced for care leavers.
- **Accommodation:** care leavers should be supported to access appropriate and suitable accommodation. The local authority should include relevant information about their Staying Put policy, the support available from Housing Services and any other assistance that is available to care leavers, such as advice on maintaining a tenancy.
- **Participation in society:** this will include links to and information about activities, events or volunteering opportunities available in the local area that care leavers can get involved in.

Appendix 1 provides an illustrative local offer, designed to support local authorities when developing their own. It provides examples of the types of support that local authorities may wish to provide to care leavers.

Further guide on what could be included

Each local authority (LA) will choose to prioritise different types of non-statutory support, so each local offer will be unique. The following bullet points provide a guide to what could be included:

- The local offer should include the support LAs will provide across all of its departments/services (for example, Housing and Leisure Services), not just the support provided by the Children's Services Department.
- The local offer should include – and differentiate between - both care leavers' statutory entitlements (which all care leavers in England are entitled to) and other additional support that LAs choose to provide to demonstrate their commitment to being the young person's 'corporate parent'.
- Where a partner organisation provides a discrete service for care leavers – such as a health drop-in exclusively for care leavers – and the LA is confident that there is an ongoing commitment from the partner organisation to provide that service/support, it should be included as part of the local offer.

- However, where a partner organisation is offering a service that is available to all young people, but there is no bespoke service for care leavers – such as a young people’s sexual health clinic, or a careers advice service for all 16-25 year olds – it may be more appropriate to signpost/provide a link to that service, rather than to include it as part of the local offer.

Organisations other than the LA, will be encouraged to use the care leaver covenant to set out their offer to care leavers.

Developing the local offer with relevant persons

When developing their local offer, local authorities are required to consult with relevant persons, which means care leavers and organisations or people that represent care leavers. Local authorities should consider how best to engage and consult with as many of their care leavers as possible. We expect local authorities to work with their care leavers to co-produce a local offer that is meaningful and reflects the needs, views and wishes of the care leavers they are responsible for. It may also be useful for Personal Advisers to seek the views and ideas of the care leavers that they support and work with on a regular basis.

Publishing and updating the local offer

The Children and Social Work Act does not specify how soon after commencement of the duty the local offer should be published. However, the Government’s expectation is that the local offer should be available within six to nine months of commencement of the duty. This will allow time for LAs to consult care leavers before publishing their local offer. Once local authorities have consulted on and published their local offer it should be reviewed regularly to ensure that the services on offer reflect what care leavers need most. Local authorities can choose how regularly they review their local offer, but we would expect local authorities to update it at least every two to three years, following further consultation with care leavers.

Format of the local offer

The local offer should be easily available and accessible to all care leavers in the local authority area. This may mean that it is made available in a number of formats including printed hard copies, online digital copies and in different languages as appropriate. We would also expect Personal Advisers to share and promote the local offer with the care leavers they work with and to make sure they are aware of it and the services they are entitled to. Local authorities will want to consider how the local offer is made available to, and is easily understood by, care leavers with additional needs.

The precise arrangements for consulting care leavers and the format(s) that the local offer is available in are for local authorities to determine. Local authorities are best placed to decide: how to consult care leavers in a way that is meaningful; and to decide in which formats the local offer should be available.

Care leavers living or placed outside of their local authority

Some young people who were placed out of area while they were looked-after may wish to remain in that area once they leave care – for example, if they want to Stay Put with their former foster carer. In these circumstances, the well-established convention is that the ‘placing’ LA continues to meet any costs associated with their on-going support. The requirement to produce a local offer does not alter that long-standing approach and we would expect the local offer to apply equally to those young people.

We think there may also be situations where LAs could consider opening up some elements of their local offer to care leavers who are living in their area but who have been placed there, and are supported, by another LA. For example, LAs may allow care leavers to take advantage of some of the discretionary support they provide, such as giving care leavers free access to their leisure services, or allowing them to attend healthy cooking classes that are available to local care leavers.

Appendix 1

Illustrative local offer

This document illustrates the kinds of services and support that local authorities may include in their local offer to care leavers. It includes both the statutory entitlements that a local authority must provide, as well as examples of the additional discretionary support that a local authority may choose to provide.

The local offer should reflect the local authority's commitment to the corporate parenting principles and include support available from all local authority Departments, not just Children's Services.

Local offers should be written in a way that is easy to understand and be provided in a variety of formats.

1. Purpose of the local offer

This leaflet tells you about all the support that we have in **[name of place]** for you as a care leaver. We know that it is a big step when you move out of care and start living on your own or with friends.

Just because you are leaving care, or have already left care, we haven't stopped caring about you. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for advice and help.

Local care leavers have helped make this leaflet. We will continue to listen to your views to make sure the services we offer are what you need. We have written this leaflet with the help of the care leavers' forum.

To be able to get the support set out in this leaflet, you must have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting to 13 weeks) which began after age 14 and included some time after your 16th birthday. If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, then ask your Personal Adviser.

This leaflet is available online at **[website]**, you can email **[contact]** to request more copies.

Your Personal Adviser will talk with you about the information in this leaflet.

2. The support we must give you by law

Advice and Support from a Personal Adviser

Following changes introduced through the Children & Social Work Act 2017, you will be able to ask for support from your Personal Adviser up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

Your Personal Adviser is there to help you to prepare to live independently and to offer advice and support after you leave care. Personal Advisers should talk to you about what support you need and record this information in your pathway plan.

Your pathway plan is written by the local authority after consultation with you and important people in your life. It sets out your needs, views and future goals, and identifies exactly what support you will receive from us. We will review your pathway plan with you regularly so that it is kept up-to-date.

We will try to enable you to keep the same Personal Adviser, though this will not always be possible. The amount of support that you receive from your Personal Adviser will depend on what you want and your circumstances.

Your leaving care team will consider with you what extra support you may need. You might, for example, need extra support because:

- You have special educational needs or a disability.
- You are an unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) and your immigration status is unclear.
- You are in or leaving custody or you have had contact with the criminal justice system;
- You are a young parent; or
- You are going through a difficult time in your personal life.

Your right to be heard and taken seriously

You have a right to be involved in all decisions about your plans for leaving care. You have a right to support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you.

Independent advocates can inform you about your rights and help you to be heard in meetings. They are separate from Children's Services.

[Local authorities should set out how young people can access advocacy support].

You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care.

Leaving care before turning 18

We will encourage you to stay in care until you are 18. Most young people still live at home with their families at this age.

If you choose to leave care before age 18, the law says we must provide you with suitable accommodation.

Support to engage in education, employment or training

We want to make sure every young person leaving care has the support to achieve their goals in life.

The law says we must provide you with assistance with expenses linked with employment, education and training. In particular:

- We will provide you with a Higher Education (HE) bursary of at least £2,000 if you go to University.
- We will provide somewhere for you to stay during University holidays (or funding for this if you would prefer to make your own arrangements) if you are in full time HE or full time residential further education and your term time accommodation is not available.

Staying Put with your former foster carer

- If this is what you and your foster carer(s) want, we will support you to remain with your foster carers under what is called a 'Staying Put' arrangement. This can last until you are age 21 **[Add link to Staying Put policy]**.

3. Examples of other support we offer [LAs should customise this section to reflect what discretionary support they provide]

Accommodation

If you are aged over 18, your personal adviser will help you to find suitable accommodation. This might involve:-

- Working with Housing Services to come up with suitable housing options for you, including supported accommodation if you are not ready or don't want to have your own tenancy.
- Support to access different independent housing options including social housing (this is accommodation managed by us or a housing association)
- Advice about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent or Council Tax arrears, paying bills and budgeting. We know it can be very hard having your own place for the first time. We will do whatever we can to ease the pressures on you **[NB: insert information if the council exempts care leavers from council tax]**
- Helping you to claim housing benefit/universal credit.
- Practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home.
- Supporting you if you have a housing crisis, including helping if you are threatened with or lose a tenancy **[NB: care leavers aged 18-20 have a priority need in homelessness legislation]**.

Education, training and employment

We want you to succeed in your education, training and employment. We will ask you how you are doing and be ready to celebrate your achievements with you.

We will offer you:

- Careers information and advice, such as help to develop your CV, advice about job interviews, including what you might wear.

[NB: Care leavers are a priority group for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund administered by FE colleges, which pays a bursary of up to £1,200 a year to support vulnerable young people to participate in education]

- Support to meet your transport costs when travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews.
- Support to buy tools, equipment, essential clothing, and books.
- Support if you choose to go to university, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, travel costs at the start and end of term, and making sure you have somewhere to live during the holidays. We will help you choose the right course and university that matches your talents and interests.
- Opportunities for work experience, apprenticeships and employment within the council.
- The chance to attend and help organise celebration events when young people achieve education, training and employment milestones.

Health and wellbeing

Below are some of the ways our care leaving team and your personal adviser can support you to stay healthy and look after your physical and mental health. We can:

- Give you information on healthy living
- Give you information on getting help to pay for prescriptions
- Support you to register with a GP
- Support you to move from CAMHS to adult services
- Give you information about counselling services that are available locally
- Give you help with transport costs when attending health appointments
- If you are a young parent, we will support you to do the best for them. We will help you arrange childcare, if this is what you want.
- Offer free or subsidised access to the leisure centres we run
- Give you information about health drop-in centres
- Work with you to develop a 'health passport' containing key information from your childhood (for example, when and if you have had immunisations) and your current health needs.

Finances

We will try to help you financially, including:

- Providing a leaving care grant to help you buy essential things when moving into your own home[**The government recommends this should be a minimum of £2,000**]
- Giving you exemptions to or discounts on paying Council Tax
- Providing or telling you about relevant money management courses
- Information on how to access your Junior ISA or Child Trust Fund
- Support to open a bank account.
- Support to gain important identification documents, such as a passport and/or provisional driving licence, before your 18th birthday
- Support to get your National Insurance number.
- Exceptional financial support in emergencies
- Providing a financial gift at birthdays and Christmas or other celebrations.

Relationships

As well as support from a Personal Adviser, we may be able to offer you additional practical and emotional support, such as through:

- Providing you with a mentor/peer mentor;
- Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers, Independent Visitors or social workers.
- Support to re-connect with family where it is in your best interests.

Participation in Society

We want our care leavers to be active members of society, and to have all the chances in life that other young adults have. We can help you participate in society in the following ways:

- Providing information on groups and clubs you may wish to join

- Informing you about relevant awards, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests
- Encouraging and helping you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in elections
- Offering work experience with our councillors
- Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in
- Informing and possibly helping with the cost of leisure activities
- Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver.

4. Who can help?

Key contact numbers for:

- Personal adviser
- Care leaving team
- Housing advice
- Designated doctors/nurses
- Education, employment or training support
- Local authority leadership e.g. the Director of Children's Services, Lead Member
- Care leavers' forum

Other places you can go for help:

- Princes Trust
- The Rees Foundation
- Rees Care Leavers' Foundation

Relevant universal services. This might include links to or contacts for:

- Health services such as sexual health clinics and drug/alcohol support
- Information about further or higher education
- Relevant youth clubs/groups/activities
- Parenting support groups
- Youth Offending Team
- Citizenship Advice Bureau



Department
for Education

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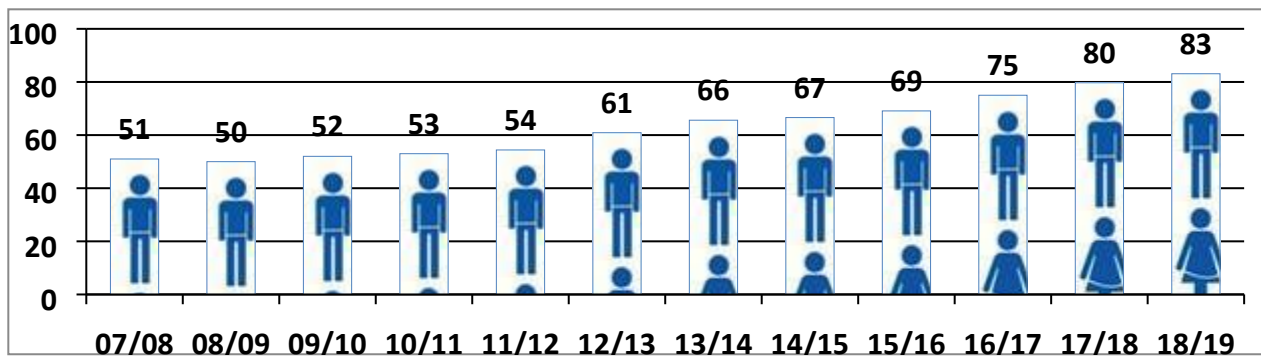
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CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, SEPT 2018

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of April 2018 there were **2,059** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **83.1** are currently looked after.
- The current number of children looked after remains higher than the previous month, and is much higher than 12 months ago (Aug 2017 - **1917**).
- 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:

- ❖ 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 80 per 10,000 and is still increasing in 2018/19.
- ❖ 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
	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	2018/19 (YTD Ave.)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	1575	1788	1831	1944	2183
Referrals <i>per month</i>	868	958	826	861	1045
Single Assessment started <i>per month</i>	1089	1253	1205	1278	1482

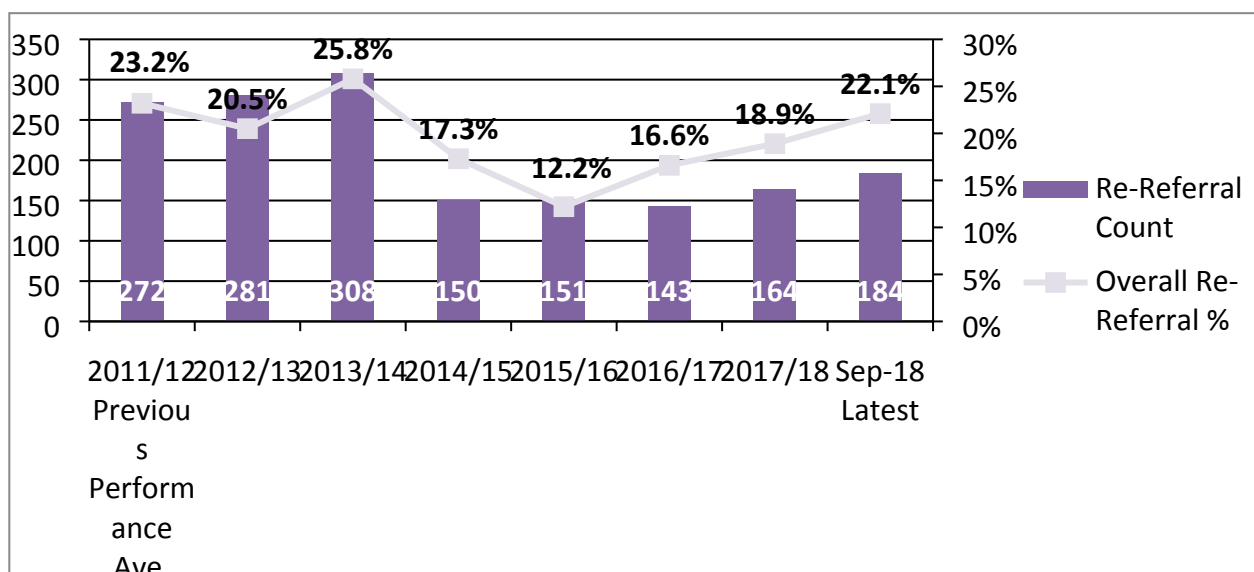
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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. Latest 2017/18 information shows 1278 assessments were started per month, the highest average number per month since moving to the single assessment.
- ❖ Latest average assessments started per month (1482) are higher than the monthly average experienced in 2017/18 (1278).
- ❖ Referrals per month increased in 2018/19, with an average of 1045 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 2017/18 increased to almost 19 re-referrals out of each 100 referrals received and has further increased in 2018/19, with current year to date figures showing 22 re-referrals out of every 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 led to a single assessment was **20.4%** in April 2018 which is an increase on the 2016/17 average rate. April 2017 shows **17.5%** 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 August 2018 shows that 10 out of 100 children looked after have moved twice or more which is poor performance and higher than our target of less than 10.
- This is worse than 17/18 performance of **7.9%** and currently the worst performance seen so far since data began being collected in 13/14.

Previous Performance					Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	August 18		
9.6%	6.8%	5.4%	7.7%	7.9%	10.0%	9.5%	
↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↗	✗	

COMMENTS:

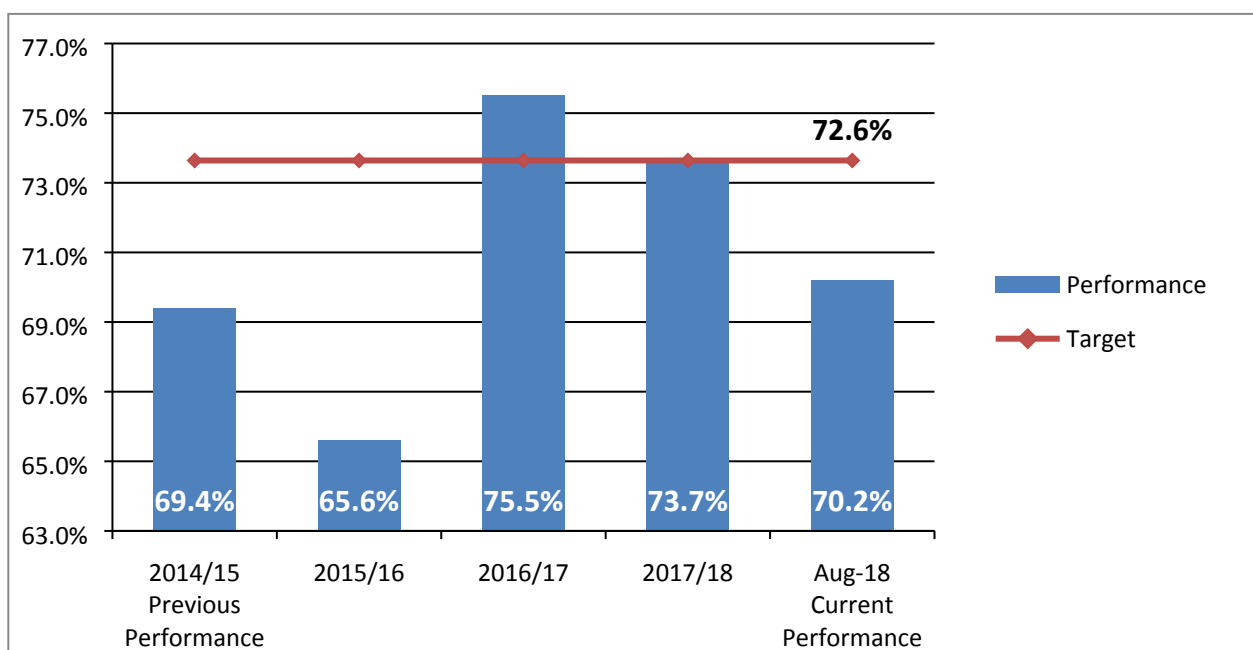
- ❖ Performance has started to decline since April-18 which had just under **8** children that had to move twice or more within the year. The stability of placements has been decreasing month on month to current data in August, with July showing **9.7%**, **0.3%** lower than our current performance of **10.0%**.
- ❖ 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.
- August 2018 information shows that just over **70** out of 100 children looked after are in a long and stable placement, which is under our target and poor performance. Placement stability has been decreasing since January-2018 which showed almost **75** out of 100 children looked after in a long and stable placement.

- Current performance is lower than 2017/18 performance (Almost **74** out of 100) and is now below target. Performance has been below target since July-2018 which showed **71** children looked after in a long and stable placement.



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 75.5% of CLA and remained above target in 17/18 with 73.7% currently stable, however recent data shows much lower performance, with only 70.2% stability currently.

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	2017/18	Q1 18/19
Lancashire CLA missing	355	361	166	155	401	92
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	365	145	185	275	111

Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	764	-	-	-	-
Other Children Missing	1338	742	-	-	-	-
Children Missing within Lancashire boundaries	2456	2222	891	1148	1425	349

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. Data in 2017/18 showed an increase in children looked after reported missing, with **14** out of 100.
- ❖ 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	15/16		
Lancs	12.8%	12.9%	8%	14%	18.5%	18.0%	
England	14.9%	15.5%	12%	13.8%	18.6%	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. Attainment further increased in 2015/16 with over **18** 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. Similarly, in 2015/16,

England's national figure shows only slightly better attainment, with 0.1% more CLA getting 5 A*-C including English and Maths.

- ❖ 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%	😞
	↗	↘	↗	↘	↘	↘	✗	

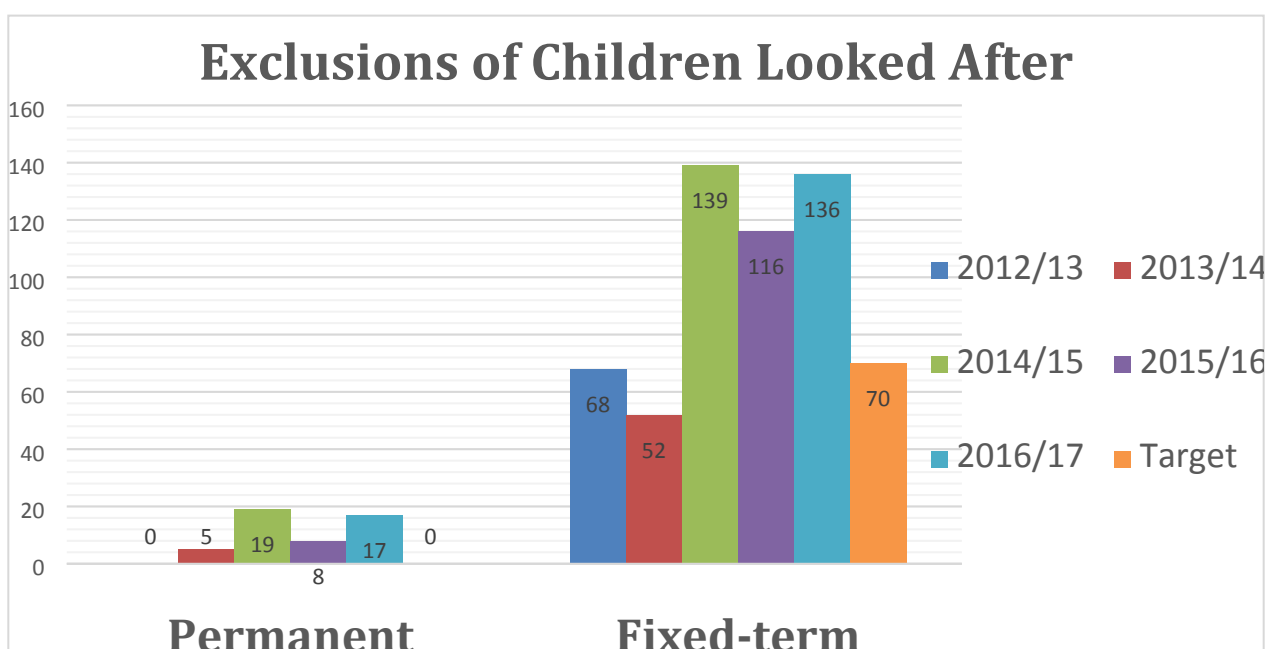
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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, 4 as at the end of August 2018.

- **3.1%** of eligible Lancashire CLA were known to the Youth Offending Team in Q1 2018/19 an improvement from **3.6%** in Q4 of 2017/18.
- Almost **1 in 4** of young people receiving YOT orders were looked after in Q4 2017/18, an increase of 1% from the previous quarter. Q1 of 2018/19 shows a reduction on this, with less than **1 in 5** young people receiving YOT orders being looked after, a reduction of **6.3%** from Q4 of 2017/18.

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

- **87** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (August 2018)
- This is a smaller percentage of up-to-date health assessments than the previous year (August 2017 - **94**)
- **73** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (August 2017 - **92**)
- After recovering from the initial low observed in March-18 (**76** out of 100) to **83** out of 100 in May, numbers have dropped again. This is the lowest performance seen in this indicator in over a year.

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

- **86** Children Looked After were adopted in **2017/18**, an increase from **73** in **2016/17**.
- The number of adoptions increased to **119** children looked after being adopted in **15/16**, similar to **14/15** performance of **121**, but much higher than in previous years.



SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER (SGO) OR RESIDENCE ORDERS (RO)

Special guardianship orders or residence orders are an alternative to adoption, but still provide children looked after with a permanent home:

- **123** looked after children were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 17/18, down from **149** in 15/16, and **120** in 14/15, but an increase from the previous year's **98**.
- **19** looked after children were given a permanent home under residence order during 17/18, an increase from **10** in 15/16 and 14/15 performance of **16** and similar to 2016/17 performance of **20**.

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 April 2018, out of 100 care leavers, **almost 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:

- August 2018 data suggests half (**49.7%**) of Care Leavers were in education, training or employment.
- Nationally **89** out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (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.
- In 2017/18 there were



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.