

Please note refreshments are available in the room from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Brown

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 26 September 2018 (10 mins) (Pages 1 - 8)

County Councillor Brown

To agree for accuracy the notes of the meeting and receive any matters arising including a response from the Access to Files presentation from the last meeting in September from Barbara Bath, Head of Service, Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT Services.

3. Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge (15 mins) (Pages 9 - 34)

Sally Allen

To receive an update on the strategy and pledge.

4. Corporate Parenting Board Action Plan (30 mins) (Verbal Report)

Barbara Bath

Start to create an action plan from the Corporate Parenting Strategy for the Board.

5. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (40 mins) (Verbal Report)

LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council)

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

- What LINX have been doing since the last meeting
- Feedback from LINX Mental Health Activity from 26 September 2018 Corporate Parenting Board meeting
- Who are LINX and POWAR?
- Young Inspectors and what they have been doing since the last Board meeting

6. Young People's Benchmarking Forum (10 mins) (Verbal Report)

Jane Hylton, Ralph Rushworth, Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick

To receive an update from the Young People's Benchmarking Forum.

- 7. Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) (10 mins)** (Verbal Report)
Barbara Bath

To discuss proposals to move into a Regional Adoption Agency with Blackpool Council.

- 8. Meeting Schedule 2019/2020** (Pages 35 - 36)
County Councillor Brown

To note the meeting schedule 2019/2020.

- 9. Performance Report** (Pages 37 - 46)
Performance report for October 2018.

- 10. Any Other Business**
County Councillor Brown

To receive any other business.

- 11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**
County Councillor Brown

The date and time of the next meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, 26 January 2019 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th September, 2018 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 'C' (The Duke of Lancaster Room) - County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Amanda Hatton	- Director of Children's Services, LCC
Graham Nelson	- representing Fostering Forum
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Paige	- LINX Representative
Natasha	- LINX Representative
Bobby	- LINX Representative
Kaci	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Iqra	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Caroline Waldron	- Safeguarding and Looked After Children, East Lancs CCG and BwD CCG
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers
Lorraine Moody	- Barnardo's
Lynda Pearson	- Leaving Care, LCC
Dylan Williams	- Barnardo's
Stephen Young	- Corporate Management Team, Lancashire County Council
Rebecca King	- Barnardo's
Michelle Dawon	- Barnardo's

Other Attendees

John Readman	- Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, LCC
Karen Buckley	- Aurora Care Young People's Services Limited
Jane Hylton	- Leaving Care, LCC
Barbara Bath	- Fostering, Adoption, Residential and YOT Team, LCC

Gavin Redhead	- Participation Lead, LCC
Reece Hobin	- Apprentice - LCC
Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC
Peter Knowles	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Ralph Rushworth	- Apprentice - LCC

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Andrew Gardiner, Phillippa Williamson and Stephen Clarke, Michelle Davies, Nicola Bamford, Roxanne McAllister, Kirsty Clarke and Tracey Ellmore.

Stephen Young, Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services was welcomed to his first meeting.

Gavin Redhead, Strategy Lead for Participation (Young People) was also welcomed to his first meeting. Gavin had recently taken over from Hannah Peake and looked forward to working alongside the young people of Lancashire.

2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 22 May 2018 and 26 July 2018

The minutes from the previous meetings held on 22 May 2018 and 26 July 2018 were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising from them.

3. LINX Activity

LINX presented the attached PowerPoint quiz to the Board to highlight the importance of physical and mental health and well-being of children in care and care leavers.

Following the activity, group work ensued with each table being asked how they felt the following individuals/groups could help children looked after and care leavers:

Friend
Corporate Parenting Board
Social Worker
Health Professional
Carers

Feedback from each group is attached.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

County Councillor Ian Brown informed the Board that the issue with keys was still ongoing and discussions were continuing.

Work around the setting up home allowance for care leavers and looking at other organisations where care leavers could spend their allowance was also ongoing.

Following the meeting where Mark Ormerod reported on what he would change if he was Director of Children's Services, John Readman informed the Board that he would feed back at a future meeting on what could and could not be achieved. Some of the work had formed part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and highlighting the Staying Put policy had also taken place.

5. Ofsted Update

Amanda Hatton gave an update on the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection and reported that services had got much better however, there was still a long way to go. Ofsted looked at all services that dealt with children looked after and care leavers and stated that social workers knew the children well and cared for them and that the social workers were not moving around which was good for the young people. Currently within Lancashire there was the most experienced social workers there has been which was also good. Funding right placements had improved as well. Leaving Care Services had seen an improvement and young people had been listened to. The Corporate Parenting Strategy had been developed and an action plan would be created going forward.

Educational attainments were getting better and Audrey Swann had visited schools to talk to them. Two young people recently received firsts at University, however this was not consistently good and as corporate parents we needed to encourage our care leavers to undertake further education.

We needed to be more consistent as their corporate parent and we have not quite delivered that yet. A pledge was being developed to support young people going forward and this would be discussed later on the agenda.

Ofsted did praise the young people they spoke to, saying they were very impressed with them as well as the Department for Education who said they were the best young people they had worked with.

6. Corporate Parenting Strategy including the Pledge

Peter Knowles, Children's Social Care Central Team Manager updated the Board on the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the pledge. A meeting was also being held with the Corporate Management Team on 27 September to deliver the strategy and promote the Local Offer and request that services support it.

The strategy still needed a few tweaks before it was presented to Cabinet. There would be one version of the strategy that everybody understood and delivered.

LINX were asked to provide the introduction and give feedback on the strategy as soon as possible.

A draft pledge had been circulated with the agenda and LINX again were asked to consider it and feedback their comments on it. Comments from the Board were:

- that they felt it was too wordy and that mental health needed referencing on it under the Healthy and Active title
- ensure it as available in different languages, formats ie large text, braille

Lancashire County Council would be signing up to the pledge therefore it had to be fit for purpose and have an impact. Peter Knowles, Jane Hylton and Gavin Redhead agreed to work with LINX on finalising the pledge. The action plan and strategy would back the pledge up. It was anticipated that the pledge would be launched at the end of November.

Actions:

- i) LINX to write an introduction for the strategy and feedback to Peter Knowles on the content.
- ii) LINX to comment on the pledge and finalise it with Jane Hylton, Peter Knowles and Gavin Redhead.

7. Care Leaver Local Offer

Jane Hylton, Assistant Base Manager, Children's Social Care Central gave an update on the Local Offer and reported that it was due to go live during Care Leaver week in October.

Feedback on the Local Offer and how it had got to where it currently was, is detailed in the PowerPoint presentation attached. The Local Offer website would be regularly updated as services come on-board. There had been lots of improvements made to the website and there would also be an events section, so care leavers knew when and where events were taking place. All information would be in one place for care leavers and this would also include national guidance/information required by law but mostly local areas which were relevant to our young people. There would also be a link to the website from the Care Leavers Facebook page. It was confirmed that the website works on all mobile devices.

There was still ongoing interest in providing a Lancashire card for care leavers, which would give them discount on public transport, museums etc. Stephen Young agreed to speak with Jane Hylton on this suggestion outside of the meeting.

Offers would appear on the website and where and how those offers could be accessed ie leisure centres that were offering free passes for three months and then offer access after this at a significantly reduced rate.

Caroline Waldron, Safeguarding and Looked After Children, East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group informed the Board that there was an exemption for care leavers on prescription costs. An HC1 SC form needed to be completed and this

was something that needed to be available on the website. Caroline agreed to forward the form to Anna Howarth who would ensure that Jane Hylton was in receipt of it to be included on the website. This exemption did not include dental fees, however this was something that Caroline would take back to her service to discuss further.

If anybody had any offers/schemes/information for young people, please use the Local Offer email address and a member of the team would be in touch – careleaverlo@lancashire.gov.UK.

When the website went live, it was vital to ensure that foster carers, residential homes were aware of it and carers/staff use it as a resource.

One of the young people queried whether a credits scheme could be applied within Lancashire County Council for young people who volunteered and then their credits could be exchanged. Chorley Borough Council run a Local Exchange Scheme and young people felt this would be good for them here in Lancashire.

- Actions:**
- i) Stephen Young, Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Community Services to liaise with Jane Hylton on the idea of a Lancashire card for care leavers.
 - ii) Caroline Waldron to forward the HC1 SC form to Anna Howarth, who will liaise with Jane Hylton re putting this on the local offer website.
 - iii) Caroline Waldron will speak with NHS Services with regards to dental costs being exempt/reduced for care leavers.

8. Young People's Benchmarking Forum

Following the last meeting Ralph Rushworth presented to the Board four questions that had been raised at the Young People's Benchmarking Forum and representatives agreed to take these back to their Authorities and get their views.

Ralph shared his experience about how he tried to access his own records and what information was on Lancashire County Council's website. Details are attached in the PowerPoint and Ralph's experience as below:

The extract is from an A-Z guide I found for care leavers, this A-Z guide is made by the council, what you see is all it stated about files. The fact this screenshot says at the bottom of the extract proves that this document is severely out of date and it is still easily found/accessed with in our local authorities - we need to stop feeding our service users wrong information and communicate more effectively than we have been. We need to change.

The hyperlink is a genuine Lancashire County Council page to educate service users and the public on accessing files. Clicking into it there is a lack of information actually around file access - there is also a hyperlink to submit an online form to access files - this is broken - takes you to an error 404. I emailed

the email on the page about information and no reply. This shows LCC are not up-to-date with the general information they are advertising and seems that if this information already isn't accurate surely the deeper into LCC it goes the less information is going to be known/accurate. I contacted someone in document management service who gave me another point of contact but still nobody could give me a definite answer.

My Personal Adviser had put the form in to access my file when I started my apprenticeship in April 2018. I had still heard nothing back from her about it or the document management service (which is initially where I assume the files are stored and sent off to the young person's home address).

No numbers to contact to track the progress of the files. I contacted duty on 0300 1236720 they ended up trying to put me through to my social worker who I sit in the same office with, so after 20 min on hold it was for nothing.

My Personal Adviser gave me the form they send to the PO box and there was a number on the bottom to contact for the form in different languages or formats – 01772534285, I rang this number several times and it would say the number is no longer in service. Majority of Personal Advisers I asked hadn't done it before so there clearly wasn't education because no one could tell me what happens after you send off to request the files. Once I got into contact with someone who helps extract the data they told me they had sent the letter for proof of id (proof of id is needed to access your files and you send as a separate document the majority of the time.) to the wrong flat but also to the next door address which could be damaging to my life if he had sent the files there.

How we could improve

REMEMBER EVEN IF WE FIX THE PROCESS WE NEED A SAFETY NET OF SUPPORT

Training such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder awareness, resilience coaching, peer mentoring, counselling – maybe make it mandatory, an available choice if you want to access your records, you receive them with a counsellor/therapist and they read it with you then you are free to leave and take the records but more sessions with the counsellor can be available if you would like them?

Even if we fix the process then we need to remember that reading your files can be extremely damaging to a young person's mental health, I have experienced first-hand my friend's mental health spiralling from receiving his files, simply because there was so much of his life he did not know and he did not have the right tools to cope with the impact this had on his life, but as a positive he is thriving in his life now and aiming to access Higher Education.

Following Ralph's account of his experience the Board agreed that:

- Actions:**
- i) Training needs to be improved.
 - ii) Progress needs to be tracked.
 - iii) Understanding what risks are in place and how they are managed.
 - iv) John Readman agreed to raise all of the above with Heads of Service and would feedback at a future meeting on progress.

Ralph was thanked for sharing his experience and bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

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

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 July 2018.

Young Inspectors

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

Become Charity for Children in Care and Young Care Leavers

Sam, LINX member and also a member of the Become Charity for Children in Care and Young Care Leavers gave an overview of the group. They met eight times a year in London and had been in existence since 1985. Young care leavers from around the Country came together and worked to improve the everyday lives and future life chances of young people who were unable to live with their birth families. Work included giving evidence to parliamentary committees, lobbying on legislation and writing and sharing briefings about specific issues with parliamentarians, as well as supporting care experienced young people to share their views and experiences, either in person or in other ways.

A magazine was also produced and further information could be found on the Become [website](#).

Sam was thanked for his presentation.

10. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business received.

11. Date and Time of Future Meetings

Dates and times of future meetings were confirmed 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

12. Performance Report

This item was for information.

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CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2018-2022



“Young peoples’ input into the Corporate Parenting Strategy is massively important as we have the lived experience of what it is like to be a child looked after in Lancashire.”

“We have first-hand experience of what the local authority is like as a Corporate Parent and what could be done to improve this so we get the best experience possible.”

“We want to be kept informed of decisions that are made and the reasons behind why they have been made. This is our strategy and we want to affect how services are run and make sure they work for us. ”

“We want our voices to be heard and what we ask for and discuss to be acted upon. ”

Thank you to LINX and the Care Leavers Forum for helping us shape our strategy.

INTRODUCTION

We want all Lancashire children to lead successful and fulfilling lives. Our vision is that all children, young people and families in need of help are safe, healthy and supported to achieve.

Whilst children in and leaving our care have achieved incredible things, we know that our services and support to them are not yet consistently good enough. That is why we have worked with them to develop this strategy. It outlines the areas we are going to work together to improve and why. It also says how we will know when we have been successful. To make sure we deliver what we say we will every year we will have a detailed action plan for the whole council and our partners. We will check we are making good progress by reporting regularly to the Corporate Parenting Board which is made up of young people, elected members, foster and residential carers, council staff and our partners.

The strategy sets out our ambition for our children and how we intend to fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities in a way which puts children and young people at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. It forms the framework in which Lancashire staff, elected members and relevant partners will work.

Thank you for supporting the strategy.



Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive
of Lancashire
County Council



Cllr Geoff Driver
Leader of the
County Council



Cllr Susie Charles
Cabinet Member
for Children, Young
People and Schools



Cllr Ian Brown
Chair of Corporate
Parenting Board

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1. WHAT IS CORPORATE PARENTING?

Sometimes it is not possible for children and young people to be looked after safely by their families without support from social workers. When this happens they come into care and live with foster carers, residential carers, with extended family or in other types of placements. The obligations of their parents become the responsibility of everyone at the council and our partner organisations. The law says this means being their Corporate Parents and “providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress and helping them to access new opportunities and experiences that inspire them to set ambitious goals for themselves” (Keep on Caring 2016).

As a Corporate Parent we have the same goals for children in our care and moving on to independence as every good parent. We will always ask ourselves

“if this was my child, I would

We will strive to ensure everything we do is underpinned by 7 care principles:

- 1 to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people
- 2 to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- 3 to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people
- 4 to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- 5 to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people
- 6 for children and young people to be safe, and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- 7 to prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living

Our Top Tips for Good Corporate Parenting were developed with young people. Please see Appendix 1.



2. WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY?

In Lancashire we are very proud of our young people and everything they achieve.

This strategy will provide direction to the various services within the local authority and our partners to improve provision and opportunities to young people in our care and our care leavers. We want the very best for our young people and will support them to ensure that they can reach their fullest potential.

We know from research that children and young people who are looked after by the local authority can be at risk of having poorer outcomes than their peers. They are more likely to leave school with fewer qualifications, have a higher risk of offending and of not being engaged in education, employment and training.

We are fully committed to ensuring that all of our looked after children and young people receive a good education in a caring and supportive environment. Being supported to achieve their best at school enables children and young people to make a successful transition into further education, training and employment.

The Education, Employment and Training Plan for our looked after children and care leavers is being embedded into practice and the impact is beginning to be seen. A higher proportion of care leavers are successfully completing further education courses, entering apprenticeships and moving into higher education.

We know that physical and emotional health is important and as Corporate Parents it is our responsibility to ensure our children have access to excellent health care services and support.

Children and young people need to feel safe and have stability throughout their journey from childhood through adolescence and to independence. As Corporate Parents we will champion for safe places for children and young people to live and ensure they have appropriate access to financial support.

What our children and young people tell us will be at the heart of how our services are developed and delivered.

As Corporate Parents we will be ambitious for our children in care and care leavers.



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3. WHO ARE WE LOOKING AFTER?



LIVING
AT HOME



YOUNG PEOPLE
LIVING IN A STAYING
PUT ARRANGEMENT

LIVING WITH AN
ADOPTIVE FAMILY

IN
RESIDENTIAL



IN ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

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4. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We have listened to children and young people and have produced nine key objectives that will improve the support we provide to them in the future.

OBJECTIVE 1

Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our services

‘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’.

We will continue to consult with children looked after and care leavers through the Children in Care Council (LINX and POWAR), the Care Leavers Forum and the Corporate Parenting Board. They will have a say and be able to influence any changes to current services or the implementation of new services. We will continue to consult with as many children and young people as possible, using their ideas and recommendations to shape our services.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/need-to-know/linx-speaking-for-you/



OBJECTIVE 2

Children and young people can remain safely at home

‘To ensure that early support is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention’.

It is important to ensure that whenever possible, children can live safely with their own family. It is always preferable to provide the necessary support to families to allow children to remain living at home than to seek to move them into care. We will always consider other family members or connected people first.

However, if children need to be looked after, we will ensure that this is carefully considered with the aim that they can return home if it is safe to do so. This will include working with a range of partners at every stage. Lancashire uses its Continuum of Need and Risk Sensible Model to identify support services that are needed for the family.

OBJECTIVE 3

Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'

'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.

The Children and Social Work Act, 2017 states an expectation that local authorities will publish information about:

- Services that local authorities offers to care leavers;
- Other services that local authorities and agencies offer that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.

Lancashire's 'Local Offer'

The Local Offer was developed with young people following a consultation event at Lancaster University. It brings together a wide range of activities and services for care leavers. The Local Offer will be improved and enhanced over the course of the strategy.

For more information, please see Appendix 2.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/care-leavers-local-offer/



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OBJECTIVE 4



Children and young people will be supported in their education, employment and training

'To close the achievement gap between those children and young people that the local authority cares for and those that are cared for by their own families'.

Young peoples' likelihood of success in life is much better if they are supported into education, employment and training when they leave care. We recognise that young people who have been in care will often need additional access to these opportunities and we are committed to ensuring that this support is available. We are aware that many children and young people have gaps in their education and we are keen to ensure the children in our care are confident to access a range of educational settings, achieving success in whatever they choose to do. We want all our children to be their best.

Whilst the educational attainment of our children at Key Stage 1 and 2 is good, we know there is a lot more to do to improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4.

The Lancashire Virtual School for children in our care aims to provide support and challenge to schools, education providers, social work teams, and other key partners. The Virtual School also monitors and tracks the progress and individual educational outcomes and targets for all our children looked after and care leavers.

The Employment and Support Team (part of the Virtual School) support Lancashire County Council's children looked after and care leavers aged 14-25 years, with the next steps into employment, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and work experience. It is our aim to increase opportunities for the children we care for across Lancashire and ensure that opportunities are provided in each locality.

OBJECTIVE 5

Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for

'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'.

All children we care for should have access to opportunities to play, socialise, exercise and learn. Being in care shouldn't mean that children and young people miss out on any opportunities.

It is important that wherever a child is placed they are encouraged and supported to experience positive social and leisure activities to encourage their wellbeing.

As a child becomes an adult and they move to independence, housing providers and District Councils have an essential role to play in working with Lancashire County Council to provide enough good quality accommodation for care leavers. Lancashire County Council and its district partners are working hard to ensure that when young people are ready to live more independently, we are able to provide a range of move-on accommodation with support, as required.

Staying Put allows young people to remain with their foster carers post 18 years and is promoted as the best option for young people in foster care. Children's Social Care will continue to familiarise themselves with accommodation options for care leavers to ensure their young people's expectations are managed appropriately.



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OBJECTIVE 6

The health and wellbeing of our children and young people in care and care leavers will be a priority for Lancashire County Council

‘To improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for’.

Health partners have a significant role in identifying, delivering and improving the health of children and young people who are looked after. An initial health assessment is undertaken when a child/ young person is new to care to identify any health needs, and dependant on their age a further review assessment is carried out 6 monthly or annually. Children looked after, can have complex health needs, both physical and psychological. The Looked After Children Nurses liaise with the wider health economy, such as paediatric therapy; dental services; GPs; specialist services e.g. CAMHS, as well as other agencies and non-statutory organisations to ensure health needs are met in the best way for the individual child or young person.

At the final health assessment, the young person leaving care will receive a summary of health needs letter, containing a summary of recent health issues, immunisation status, details of key health contacts, e.g. GP, LAC Nurse, sexual health services.

From listening to young people’s feedback, we are currently working with Adult Services to ensure that any continuing support that is needed for our young people is planned before they become adults.

OBJECTIVE 7

Children and young people will receive appropriate financial support

‘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’.

Lancashire County Council has listened to the voice of young people and understands how difficult it can be living independently. To assist with this, the local authority has ensured that all care leavers can gain assistance with their council tax.

Financial Procedures for care leavers has been refreshed and this sets out the amount of financial support that will be offered to children who are looked after and care leavers.



OBJECTIVE 8

Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation

'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'.

Partner agencies work together to ensure a coordinated response to children and young people most at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation, missing from home and trafficking. Dedicated exploitation teams minimise the number of professionals the child or young person has to work with.

The pathways and approaches for exploitation have been reviewed, updated and improved to be more child focused which will help to build positive working relationships with children who have experienced significant trauma through exploitation. Additional information can be found in Appendix 5a.

For further information, please see
www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk

Children missing from home

Two thirds of children identified as missing are open to social care and are looked after children. As a response, the local authority has implemented robust, child focused policies and procedures to help support children and young people when they are identified as being at risk of missing.

Children in our care and youth justice

Lancashire County Council's Children's Services', the Youth Offending Team, Lancashire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service have joint working arrangements to divert and prevent children looked after from offending behaviour and entering or escalating through the justice system.

There is a multi-agency plan in place to respond to the 'In Care of Trouble' agenda.

Additional information can be found in Appendix 5.

OBJECTIVE 9

Children and young people in our care and care leaver achievements are celebrated

'To ensure that the children we look after and have looked after, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.

Children in our care and care leavers have a variety of opportunities to celebrate their achievements. PROUD is the biggest event of the year with young people being nominated by a wide range of key workers and agencies.

The PROUD Awards are an opportunity for Corporate Parents to come together with our children and young people to celebrate their achievements. Approximately 60 young people and their guests attend PROUD each year. It serves as a timely reminder of our children and young people's resilience, many talents and successes despite the adversity and challenges many have overcome. This annual event will continue to celebrate our young people and show them how proud we are.



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5. HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

WHAT WILL YOUNG PEOPLE SAY?

I FEEL GOOD ABOUT MY FUTURE

I FEEL SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR

I FEEL PROUD OF MY ACHIEVEMENTS

I FEEL ABLE TO SHARE MY VIEWS AND FEELINGS

WHAT WILL PARTNERS SAY?

WE UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE & SUPPORT

WE WORK AS A TEAM AND VALUE OUR DIFFERENT ROLES

WHAT WILL CORPORATE PARENTS SAY?

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WE BUILD TRUSTING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OUR CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED
TO ACHIEVE THEIR BEST IN EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT

I AM PROUD
OF OUR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

WE VALUE AND RESPOND
TO WHAT CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US

I WANT THE
BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL
SAFE AND CARED FOR

CORPORATE PARENTING APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Top Tips to Good Corporate Parenting What our Children and Young People say

01 **Know a Child/Young Person's Story**
Understand why your child/young person is in care from the file and also their story when you meet them.

02 **Care History**
Understand their care history, placements, and current placement i.e. who are the other children/young people in placement, are there any risks? Dynamics.

03 **Family/Contact**
Understanding their birth family is important to them, who they have contact with – is there anyone they are not allowed to see? Contact plan as part of care plan, the venue of contact/visits/supervised or unsupervised needs to be thought through.

04 **Purpose**
Visit regularly and understand why you are visiting your children.

05 **Assess and Plan**
What is the plan? Going home?
Staying in placement until adulthood?
Do an assessment to ensure this plan remains relevant.

06 **Ambition**
Have ambition for your children/young people. Education, hobbies, friends, wishes/wants.

07 **Voice of the Child/Young Person, their 'Lived Experience'**
Understand and listen to what your child feels/wants and evidence this. Who is your child close to i.e. teacher? Look at the best holistic way of obtaining the voice of the child/young person.

08 **Visit**
See your children on their own, take them out, do unannounced visits on occasion see what their everyday environment is like unstaged. Think about the purpose of the visit and what needs to be achieved.

09 **Multi Agency and Partnership Working**
Other agencies have information about your child/young person, their history, likes and dislikes, risks. They may see them every day and will have education and health information which assists you in building up a picture of what needs they may have and what the plan of care needs to be.

10 **Know your Resources, Support and Community**
Know what is there for your children young people that may benefit them.

11 **Child/Adolescent Development**
Understand your child's history and child/adolescent development.

12 **Identity and Diversity**
Be aware of specific issues, special educational needs, criminality, transgender, sexuality, cultural and ensure this is acknowledged in care plans.

APPENDIX 2

Priorities identified at the Care Leaver Local Offer Event at Lancaster University in April 2018. More detailed information can be provided.

Accommodation

- Accommodation options in the area they were in care
- Smaller types of supported accommodation
- What support can I get from housing?
- Practical skills to prepare for independence

Health and Wellbeing

- Better transition to adult services, adult services need to know about issues facing care leavers

Relationships

- Would like peer-peer support from other care leavers
- Good support from personal adviser but would like to see her more

Education, Employment and Training

- Great if care leavers received an apprenticeship bursary like they do at university
- Opportunities to visit universities
- Need a list of training providers in the area where I live

Other Support and Participation

- Care leaver forums in other areas
- Information on what a Care Leaver Forum is
- Activity groups that are after 5pm
- Out of hours support

APPENDIX 3

Education Attainment

Key Stage 1 (end of year 2: 7 years old)

- Lancashire KS1 CLA achieved above national average for CLA in every subject area: Reading, Writing, Maths and all three combined and well above average in Writing and the combined measure for Reading, Writing and Maths
- Compared to 2015-16 our KS1 CLA increased attainment in all subject areas and above the rate of increase for CLA nationally.
- Key Stage 2 (end of year 6: 11 years old)
- Lancashire KS2 CLA achieved above the national average for CLA in Reading, Maths, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, and also in Reading, Writing and Maths combined
- Writing assessment was lower for our KS2 CLA than the national average, though we had a higher % of pupils (9%) who achieved Writing at greater depth than the national average (6%)
- Compared to 2015-16 our pupils increased attainment in all measures except in Writing
- Progress from KS1 to KS2
- Lancashire CLA who had been in care for at least 12 months,

made greater progress than those with similar starting points, from the end of KS1 to KS2 than national CLA average, in Reading, Writing and Maths

- Progress in Maths was significantly higher than national rate
- Key Stage 4 (end of year 11: 16 years old)
- Attainment and progress was below the national average- measured by scores obtained, and progress measured, across 8 examinations (Attainment 8, Progress 8)
- The attainment and progress of CLA in 2016-18 decreased nationally from 2015-16, and in Lancashire this decrease was higher than the national average

Currently 69% of our CLA/care leavers are in education, employment and training in May 2018, compared to 53% of the same cohort in May 2017.

97% of this group are currently assessed as on track to achieve their qualification.

The merger of the Employment and Support Team with the Virtual School (November 2017) and the commitment from the LA of significant funding (9 April 2018) had greatly increased the level of support that is available to support CLA and care leavers into employment. Since April 2017 the team has supported 241 young people. 84 have accessed work experience placements and to date 50 have progressed into paid employment, which has increased from a total of 16 in the same period in 2016-17.

APPENDIX 4

Care Leavers

Revised information on the financial support available to care leavers will be shared after it has been agreed at Cabinet in the autumn. Additional information will be published on the Local Offer website, once it has been confirmed.

Moving Towards Independence

- Young people will be supported by their personal advisers, social workers and key workers if they reside in supported accommodation. Practice guidance has been published which provides a consistent message and support for young people.

ASDAN Awards

The ASDAN Living Independently Short Course is focused on helping children looked-after make a successful transition to adulthood. The course supports the cross-government strategy to transform support for young people leaving care – ‘Keep on caring: supporting young people from care to independence’. 347 packs have been issued to care leavers in Lancashire. The packs can be completed with support from their personal advisers, foster carers or any other support worker.

APPENDIX 5

A comprehensive approach has been crafted in respect to not only supporting children identified as being missing, but also to enable children, young people and professionals to be able to gain a fuller understanding of the push and pull factors that orbit children when identified as missing.

Such an approach is crucial to ensure that the local authority is able to respond to the needs of children placed in its care and to be able to offer children and young people the support and guidance that one would expect from a parent.

Lancashire County Council has a clear process pathway in order for children and young people to be supported. This includes the child or young person being seen within 72 hours of being found and being offered a return home interview. These interviews are holistic and child focused and allow the child and young person to gain some insight and understanding into the possible reasons they may go missing and what support can be provided to assist the child or young person to reduce their missing episodes. As a Corporate Parent, we are resolute in ensuring that all children placed in our care, that are subsequently identified as being at risk of missing, are offered a comprehensive package of support that reflects their individual needs.

a) Missing From Home

Lancashire County Council has implemented Missing Intervention Meetings, where the child, parents and carers are invited to discuss identified concerns pertaining to missing episodes. These meetings allow the child or young person to explore the reasons why they go missing and what the local authority, as a Corporate Parent, can do to help alleviate these incidents.

Monthly Missing from Home Panels are held, where the most high risk missing cases are discussed in a multi-agency forum. The panel discuss the child's care plan and evaluate if certain aspects of the plan needs revisiting to ensure that the plan is appropriate to the child's.

This approach has already proven to be highly effective in addressing identified issues and then being able to make recommendations for level 3 strategy meetings to be held in order for the child's care plan to be evaluated and if needed amended. It is agreed that such swift actions allow for the child's care plan to not only be evaluated, but for a comprehensive, holistic and child focused response to be provided when a child has been identified as being at risk of missing.

The Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) Meeting occurs on a monthly basis and interlinks with the missing Education and Missing From Home Panels to ensure that all areas of risk within a child's life are captured and plans established. The MACSE is a multi-agency meeting and is attended by all required partners to inform decision making in relation to plans

and intervention, such as disruption or prosecution of perpetrators. The plans established within the meeting also help to safeguard children.

The exploitation teams work closely with the child's social worker in order to support, assist and befriend alongside the risk assessment and risk management plan. This joined up working provides additional support to a child when they have been a victim of exploitation.

The service also commissions additional support and training from experts within the field to upskill staff and work directly with children who require specialist intervention and support to begin to address the trauma they have experienced. All training delivered is multi-agency and links in with the LSCB.

b) Children Missing Education

In Lancashire, the Children Missing Education (CME) Panel fits within the structure of multi-agency meetings and panels across Lancashire, including Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) and Missing from Home (MFH). The CME Panel meets monthly and is attended by representatives from Education, CME, Virtual School, Pupil Access, SEND, CSE and CFW. New cases of CME are identified by the CME Team in priority order across Lancashire; these are added to the existing open cases. At each panel previous cases are discussed.

There are three outcomes at the panel:

1. A case may be closed if the child or young person is now in education
2. A case may be referred to MFH or MACSE if a situation has escalated and other issues make the child/young person more vulnerable
3. A case remains on the panel list and will be returned to at the next meeting when updates on new actions will be discussed. Each action is clearly allocated to an individual and they have responsibility for progressing that action.

APPENDIX 6

Legislation

- Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 (the Act)
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended 2015)
- The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 (the Care Leavers Regulations)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Act is intended to improve support for children looked after and care leavers. It sets out principles for local authorities to be the best parent they can be to children in their care.

Section 1 introduces seven principles of Corporate Parenting which local authorities must have regard to for children looked after or care leavers. (See below).

Section 2 requires local authorities to publish information about the services it offers to care leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. These services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation, and participation in society. It is distinct from the special educational needs and disability (SEND) local offer stipulated by the Children and Families Act 2014.

Section 3 requires local authorities to appoint a personal adviser for care leavers who request one up until the age of 25, regardless of whether the young person intends to pursue education or training. The local authority also has a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support. This includes supporting young people to access housing options teams and to ensure that they are able to access the correct information.

www.local.gov.uk/get-act-children-and-social-work-act-2017

Keep on Caring

In 2016, the government launched its new strategy, 'Keep on Caring'. It outlined its vision for further reform of support for care leavers based on innovation, system reform and the embedding of corporate parenting responsibility across society.

Strategic priorities include: better preparation for independent living; access to education, employment and training; improved stability, through funding for Staying Put arrangements and introducing Staying Close for young people leaving residential care; health and wellbeing and financial stability.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-on-caring-supporting-young-people-from-care-to-independence

Ofsted

From 2018, the way Care Leavers Services will be inspected is going to change. For more information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-strategy-2017-to-2022>

Health of Looked After Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2

Educational Attainment of Looked After Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children

Looked after Children and Youth Justice

DfE - CA 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 2 - Care Planning, Placement & Case Review (Supplement)

APPENDIX 7

The role of Elected Members/District Councils/External Partners

- Have a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for looked after children and care leavers in the authority area and those placed out of area
- Champion the interests of looked after children and care leavers in all they do
- Ask questions about outcomes for children and challenge appropriately
- Ensure looked after children and care leavers have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them, so they can influence those decisions. This includes councillors engaging with the looked after children council and the leaving care council
- Provide meaningful work based training opportunities, including apprenticeships for care leavers within the council and its partners and contractors to improve their future prospects
- Ensure children placed out of county receive an equal service
- Ensure that the council, as Corporate Parent, is keeping the promise it has made in the Care Leavers Pledge
- Require evidence of improving positive outcomes and aspirational progress for Lancashire's looked after children
- Ask how all elements of council business have an impact for looked after children
- Make connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making for looked after children

ACRONYMS

Care leavers fall into four categories which have been defined in the Children Act 1989;

1. Eligible
2. Relevant
3. Former relevant
4. Qualifying

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
 CFW - Child, Family and Wellbeing Service
 CLA - Child looked after
 CME - Child Missing Education
 CP - Child Protection Plan
 CSC - Children's Social Care
 CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation
 DfE - Department for Education
 GP - General Practitioner (doctor)
 KS - Key Stage (in reference to education)
 LA - Local authority
 LAC - Looked after child (Health)
 LCC - Lancashire County Council
 LCS - Lancashire's recording system

LINX - Children in Care Council
 LSCB - Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board
 LYOT - Lancashire Youth Offending Team
 MACSE - Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation
 MASH - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
 MFH - Missing from Home
 PA - Personal advisers
 PEP - Personal Education Plan
 SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability
 SW - Social Worker

LANCASHIRE'S PROMISES

CHILDREN IN CARE & CARE LEAVERS

FROM YOUR CORPORATE PARENTS

These Promises have been made by Lancashire County Council and our partners to children looked after and care leavers. We promise to do our best to help you achieve your full potential, we are committed to involving you in any decisions that affect your life, we will ask you what you think, we will listen to you and take your views into account. This is part of our commitment to making sure that children and young people are valued in every aspect of their lives.

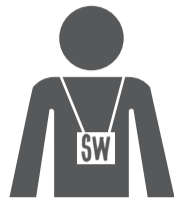
KEEP YOU SAFE AND HAPPY WHERE YOU LIVE



REGULAR CONTACT WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE



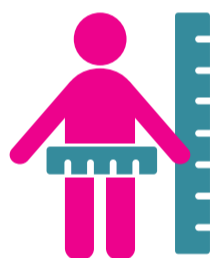
KEEP THE SAME SOCIAL WORKER
(unless absolutely necessary for you to change)



SUPPORT YOU TO HAVE A SAFE HOME



MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD



ENCOURAGE YOU TO HAVE GOOD PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH



CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS



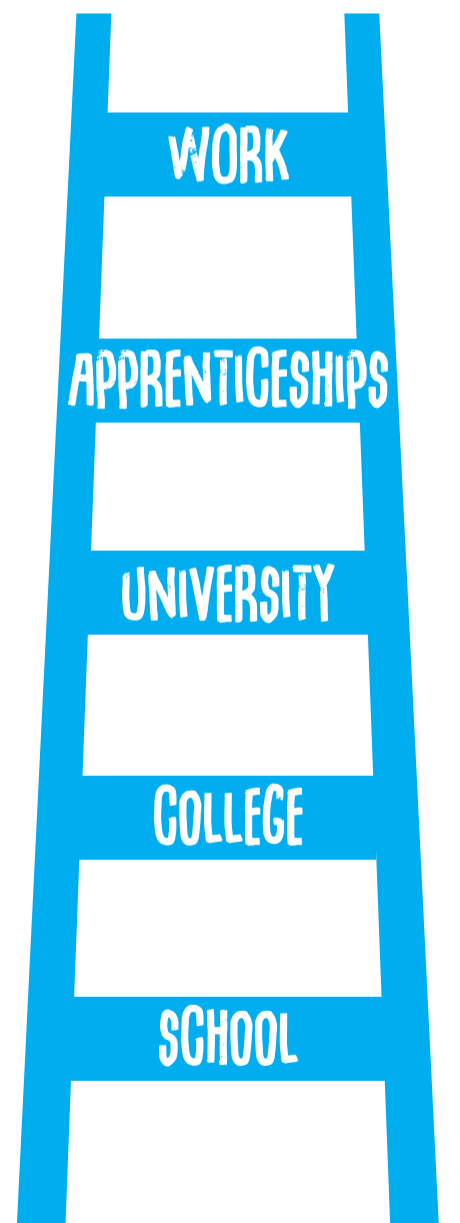
**PLACES TO MEET
MEET YOUR RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL NEEDS**



**continue doing what you do
TRY SOMETHING NEW**



MEET NEW PEOPLE



Lancashire
County Council



GETTING INVOLVED

There are lots of different ways you can get involved in having a say about the service you receive.

You may have suggestions about what we could do differently or even what's going well for you, which could have a positive impact for other looked after children and care leavers.

You might be interested in joining Lancashire's children in Care Council (LINX or POWAR) or the Care Leaver Forum. The groups are made up of children and young people who are in care or care leavers. It is another way of getting your voice heard. They provide a great opportunity for you to talk about issues affecting children in care and care leavers which can be fed back to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Corporate Parenting Board is there to make sure the council does a good job for you. Attending the Corporate Parenting Board is another way you can raise issues for children in care and care leavers. Get in Touch with [LINX](#) for more information.

Want to meet an Independent Visitor?

An Independent Visitor befriends a young person in care. They will visit twice a month away from your home and plan activities together.

More information on the Independent Visitor Service and Virtual Independent Visitor is on the [Childrens Rights Service website](#) or call **01772 759 233**.

Need an Independent Advocate?

This service helps children and young people in care to have a say about what happens in their lives. All young people in the care of Lancashire County Council, aged 0-18 years are eligible for the service, including those living at home or with friends and extended family. We also work with care leavers up to the age of 25.

An advocate can support in various ways:

- Attending reviews/meetings with, or on behalf of, the child or young person
- Helping with placement issues
- Discussing contact arrangements with family members
- Making complaints
- Providing information

Contact **The Childrens Rights Service 01772 759 233** or complete a **request form Childrens Rights Service**

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

If you have any concerns about the service and support you are receiving then please raise this as soon as possible with your social worker, personal adviser or their manager, hopefully this will be resolved quickly.

Or you may want to contact the Childrens Rights Service to request an advocate, phone **01772 759 233** or **Freephone 0800 085 6324**.

However, if you do want to make a complaint contact the Customer Service Centre on **0300 123 6720**.

MOMO One

Mind Of My Own - MOMO One App

MOMO One is a way for children in care and care leavers to prepare for meetings, raise problems or ask for something.

You can download MOMO One as an App for Android or Apple devices or use it on any internet browser device such as a tablet or Xbox.

You can ask for the information you put in to go to a worker of your choice, for example your social worker, personal advisor or the complaints team.

MOMO One is not an instant messaging service and you will not receive a response back through the App. The information gets picked up and passed on to the worker during normal working hours, Monday to Friday. The worker will then contact you by phone or email as usual.

For more information see the [MOMO website](#).

LANCASHIRE'S PROMISES CHILDREN IN CARE & CARE LEAVERS



SCHEDULE OF CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD MEETINGS 2019/2020

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

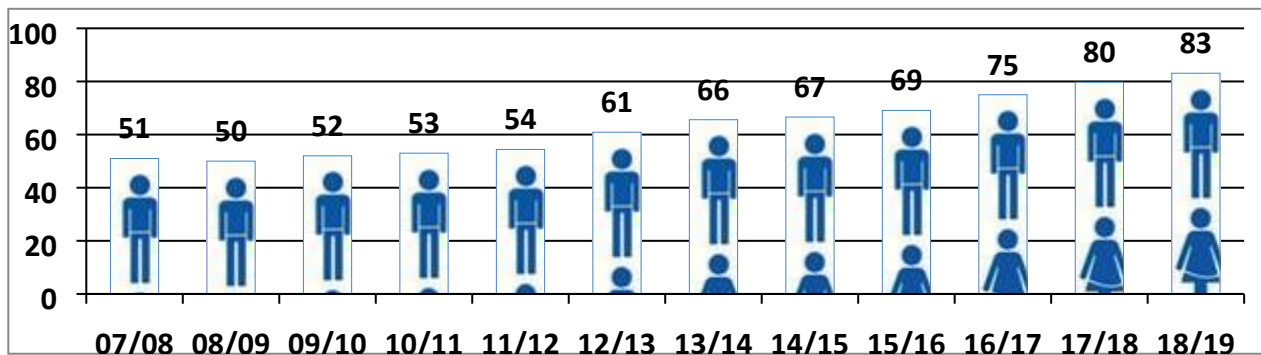
Date of Corporate Parenting Board Meeting	Time and Venue
Wednesday, 23 January 2019	6.00 pm – Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Thursday, 28 March 2019	6.00 pm – Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Wednesday, 22 May 2019	6.00 pm – Committee Room 'D' – Henry Bolingbroke, County Hall, Preston
Wednesday, 24 July 2019 - Young People's Meeting	1.30pm – Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Thursday, 19 September 2019	6.00 pm – Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Tuesday, 26 November 2019	6.00 pm – Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Thursday, 30 January 2020	6.00 pm - Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Wednesday, 25 March 2020	6.00 pm - Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston
Tuesday, 12 May 2020	6.00 pm - Committee Room 'C' – Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

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 **2,064** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **83.3** are currently looked after.
- Although we did see a reduction between August (2059 children looked after) and September (2053 children looked after), the current number of children looked after remains higher than the previous month and is much higher than 12 months ago (Oct 2017 - **1931**).
- 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

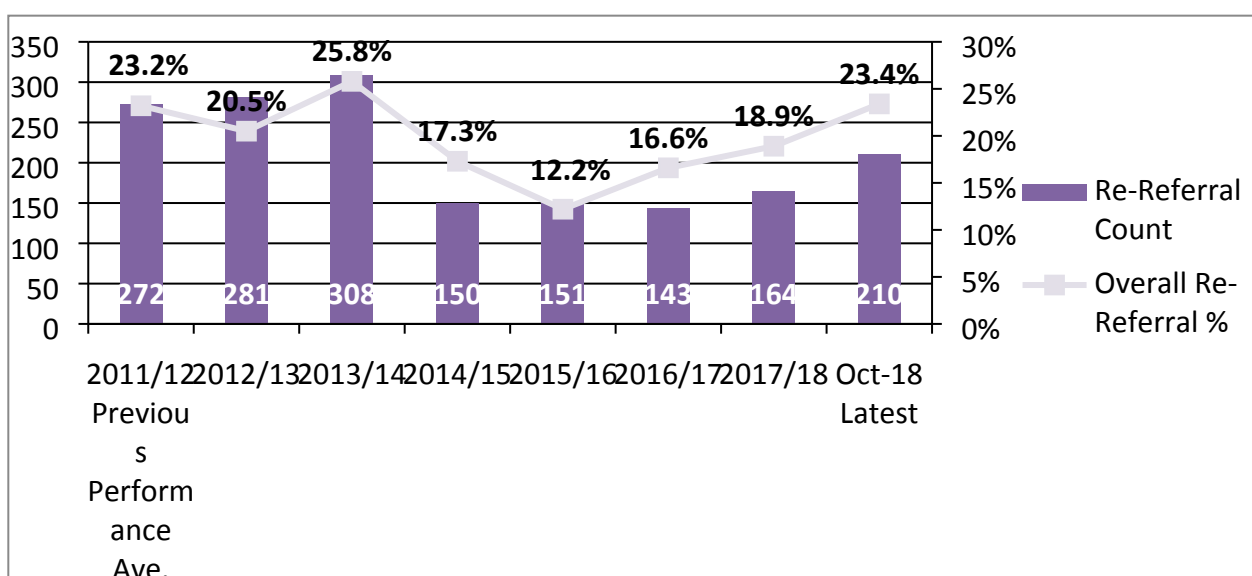
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 23 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 **23.4%** in October 2018 which is an increase on the 2016/17 average rate. October 2017 shows **23.4%** re-referrals.

STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS OF CLA: NUMBER OF MOVES

How many children looked after moved placement twice during the past year:



- Out of 100 children looked after, Lancashire targets to have less than 10 children looked after having to move twice or more during the year.
- Latest information for October 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	October 18		
9.6%	6.8%	5.4%	7.7%	7.9%	10.5%	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 October, with September showing **9.8%**, **0.7%** lower than our current performance of **10.5%**.
- ❖ 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.

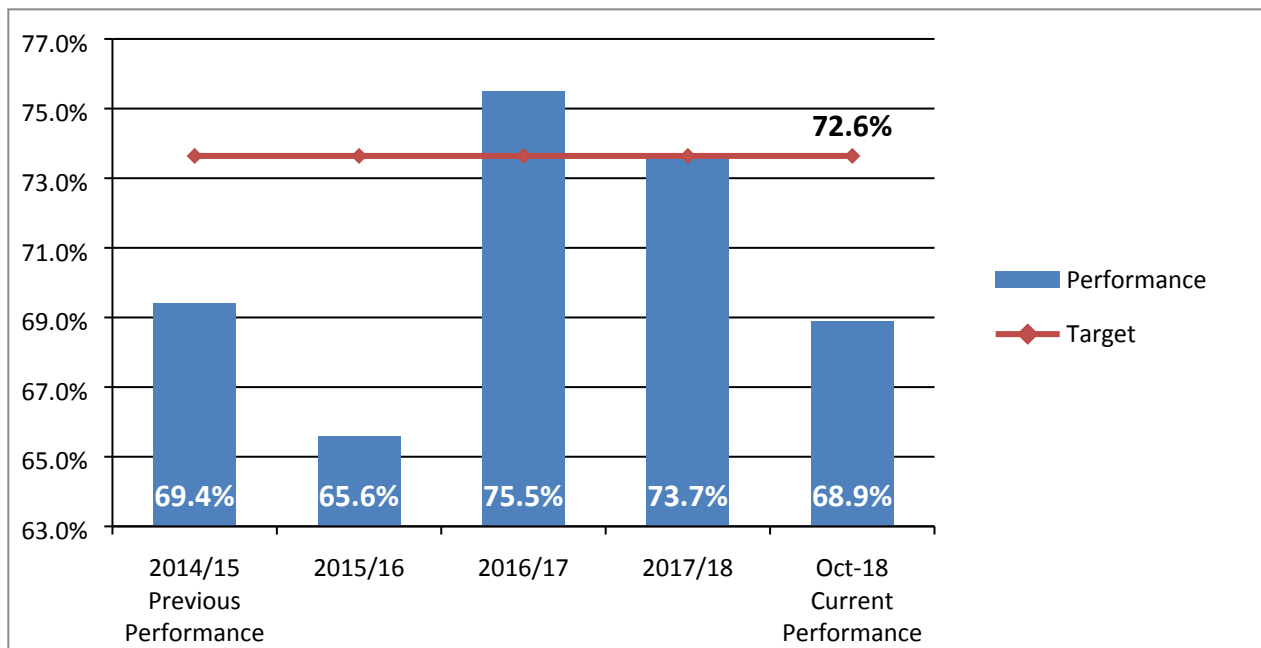
STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS OF CLA: LENGTH OF PLACEMENTS

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.
- October 2018 information shows that just under **69** 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 and has been further decreasing.
- Placement stability is currently lower than the national average of 70 out of 100 children as well as our statistical neighbours, which have just over 69 out of 100 children in the same placement for 2 or more years.



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%	😞

	↗	↘	↗	↘	↘	↘	✗	
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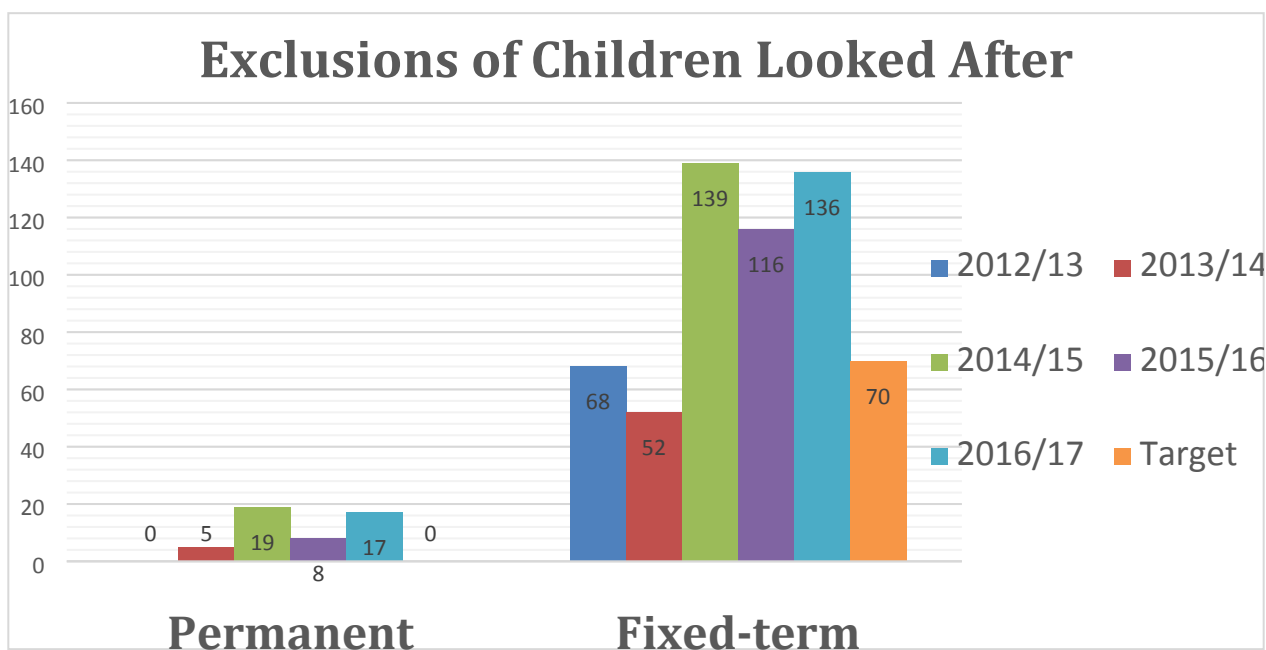
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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, **6** 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

- **85** 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 (October 2017 - **94**)
- **71** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (October 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 October 2018, out of 100 care leavers, **almost 82** were considered to be in suitable accommodation

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Young people feel that the target should be 100% as everyone is entitled to be safe and secure. Young people wish to know where the others are residing to not meet this definition.
- ❖ Young people feel that when a young person leaves care, placement options should be available for the young person to consider, review and be approved before the change. Moreover, more support needs to be given around budgeting, as this could lead to problems paying for rent. Young people think that all children looked after should be involved in this process.

CARE LEAVERS IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (OLD NI 148)

The percentage of care leavers at 19 who are engaged in education, training or employment:

- October 2018 data suggests half (**50.0%**) 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 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 29 care leavers studying at university, including 15 first year students. 5 students graduated in 2018.



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.