

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2017 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Sue Pryn	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	-	Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	-	Lancashire County Council
Catherine Lynsey Evans	-	representing Adoption Fostering Forum
Tony Morrissey	-	Deputy Director, Children's Services
Kirsty Clarke	-	Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Callum	-	LINX Representative
Paige	-	LINX Representative
Kieran	-	LINX Representative
Charlotte	-	LINX Representative
Lisa	-	LINX Representative
Shantel	-	LINX Representative
Kris	-	LINX Representative
Katie	-	LINX Representative
Sam	-	LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Debbie Ross	-	Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	-	Barnardos
Mia Leyland	-	Barnardos
Francis Ashcroft	-	Agency Residential
Mark Cartridge	-	Agency - Fostering

Other Attendees

Kirsty Clarke	-	Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Annette McNeil	-	Lancashire County Council
Jane Hylton	-	Lancashire County Council
Kelly Taylor	-	NHS East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen CCG
Stephen Martin	-	Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	-	Lancashire County Council

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor Julie Gibson, County Councillor Dorothy Lord, County Councillor Lorraine Beavers, Jane Simpson, Mark Twiname, Nicola Bamford, Diane Booth, Amanda Mansfield, Susan Towers and Stela Stansfield.

It was noted that this meeting would be the last for a few members of the Board and CC Pryn timer wished to thank them all for their hard work and dedication as members and wished them every success in the future.

Angela Epps, Agency Fostering and Susan Towers, Residential Fostering had also finished their term of 12 months representing private providers and CC Pryn timer thanked them also for their contribution.

For the next 12 months, Fran Ashcroft from Hexagon Care would be the Agency Residential representative and Mark Cartridge from Foster Care Associates would be the Agency Residential representative. The Board welcomed them to their first meeting.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 1 December 2016

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

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

CC Pryn timer

CC Pryn timer reported that she had been involved with the shortlisting for the forthcoming PROUD Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers event.

The Board were asked if anybody would like to donate a raffle prize for the event and if so, to ensure that Sam Gorton was informed who would make arrangements for collection. Closing date for donations would be 2 March 2017.

CC Pryn timer and CC Beavers had recently visited some 16/17 year old care leavers in supported accommodation and carried out an inspection similar to a Regulation 22 visit that happens in residential homes. Reports from these visits had been compiled and sent to Tony Morrissey for action. A young person that CC Pryn timer had visited had been invited to attend tonight to share his story with the Board, however had sent his apologies just before the meeting. He had turned his life around with the help of his social worker and his story was a huge success and would be invited back to a future meeting.

Action: CC Pryn timer to invite the young person back to a future meeting to share his success story.

CC Prynne had been contacted by various young people to deal with issues that had arisen since the last Board meeting and she commented she had found this welcoming that young people felt they could approach her and other Elected Members on the Board to help them deal with issues that have arisen.

CC Prynne had also attended an Adoption Exchange Day which encouraged potential adopters to take the next step towards adoption. This was attended by representatives from across the North West and it had been the best attended event so far. Adopters spoke about their experiences of adoption and the event was well received. CC Prynne praised Georgine Lee from Fostering and Adoption Services and her team for organising this event and asked for feedback to be given to a future Board meeting.

Action: Tony Morrissey to feedback to Georgine Lee the praise that CC Prynne had given to her and her team and request feedback to be given to the Board on the day.

4. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX tabled a detailed account of what they had been doing since 1 December 2016 and this is attached to these minutes.

Performance Report

Young people raised concerns as detailed in the Powerpoint with regards the missing and absent data in the report. Tony Morrissey stated that the definition is being reviewed by the Police nationally and the young people commented that being late home should not be classed as missing or absent.

With regards education, the Board had done a lot of work on the Pupil Premium to support CLA. CC Prynne asked the young people if they felt that the pupil premium was successful for them or did it need revisiting as a Board. They felt it still needed working on as new members to LINX said they did not know it was available and this was only a small cohort of CLA.

Following discussion it was agreed that as a Board this needed to be investigated further ie look at visiting schools and discuss further with them. CC Prynne agreed to discuss with Audrey Swann, Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children as this was her area and look at what progress had been made so far and see where the pupil premium was being spent. Schools where pupil premium was being used well could share good practice with other schools.

Blackpool Council provide a list in Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings on what Pupil Premium can be used for, and it was felt that this would be good for Lancashire to adopt. The Board requested that Audrey look into what Blackpool is doing and compare it with Lancashire and see if any areas of good practice could be adopted.

A young person in attendance at the meeting gave her experience on how their pupil premium had been used by attending a trip to Rome and agreed that young people need to be made more aware of what it can be used for.

- Actions:**
- i) CC Prynne to discuss further with Audrey Swann on the progress of Pupil Premium and what can be done to target schools that were not using it well.
 - ii) Tony Morrissey on behalf of the Board to request that Audrey Swann compares what Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council do in respect of pupil premiums.

Young Inspectors Update

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

Benefits Entitlements and Sanctions

The Young People conducted a quiz and the answers are in red as attached in the Powerpoint.

One young person raised concerns with being unable to contact their Personal Adviser and others stated that this had been the case also.

The young person then contacted CC Prynne and Mia Leyland (Barnardo's) as they were having issues with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) as they had been informed they were having their benefits sanctioned. It was only after CC Prynne and Mia Leyland became involved did the DWP start to listen. It appears that the DWP still do not have special dispensations or single points of contact (SPOC) for care leavers.

The Children's Society are doing a piece of work on Sanctions and requested that any care leaver willing to share their experiences to speak to Kirsty Clarke.

Following discussions a number of points had been raised:

- Care leavers need to be offered financial education
- Further work needs to take place between LCC and DWP (Helen Collinson) especially around single point of contact (SPOC) and investigate further when issues arise and discuss with that particular benefits office. They also need to see the video included in the presentation.

- Actions:**
- i) Sam Gorton to invite Helen Collinson from DWP to the next Board meeting in April.
 - ii) Young people were asked to write down and share with Jane Hylton/Tony Morrissey what they would like a Personal Advisor to do.

Once again the young people were thanked for their detailed update to the Board on all the activities they had been involved in.

5. Update on what Personal Adviser (PPA) Hubs Do and the Role of a Personal Adviser (20 mins)

Kieran Danskin and Jane Hylton were welcomed to the meeting. Kieran spoke about his perspective on what his Professional Personal Adviser (PPA) had helped him with as a young care leaver and took the Board through the presentation which is attached to the minutes.

Kieran's PPA had helped him with housing benefits and entitlements, accommodation, employment, education and training, leaving care ISA, preparation for independence and participation in groups ie Children in Care Council.

Kieran reported that through employment he had got involved with various groups including the Young People's Benchmarking Forum which he wished to bring updates to future meetings and the Board agreed they would receive them.

Jane Hylton confirmed that there were monthly meetings held with the PPA teams across Lancashire and they are looking at different approaches being made.

Jane also discussed the Living Independently Booklet which was a short course by ASDAN and informed the Board that Lancashire was going to pilot this and were looking for any foster carers that are willing to be a part of this pilot scheme and Crestmoor Residential Home are looking at the cooking section of the course. Six young people are also needed to pilot the scheme too and it is an accredited certificate too.

The pilot will finish at the end of March and Jane agreed to report back at the April meeting and then hopefully roll the programme out across Lancashire.

- Actions:**
- i) Jane Hylton to attend a Fostering Forum meeting to discuss the Living Independently Booklet with carers and request them to be part of the pilot scheme.
 - ii) Kirsty Clarke to send names of young people who are interested in piloting the scheme.
 - iii) Sam Gorton to ensure a report is given at the April meeting on the ASDAN Living Independently Booklet with a report on the pilot scheme by Jane Hylton.

Discussions have been had with other authorities who are using Facebook for Care Leavers and Leeds City Council have a successful social media account called Clued Up. It was agreed that Jane would contact Leeds City Council and

invite them to the next CPB meeting to discuss how they manage their Facebook site and see if Lancashire can adopt it.

Action: Jane Hylton to invite representatives from Leeds City Council to present their Facebook site to the Board at its next meeting.

Kate Baggaley updated the Board on a young person who, through her leaving care worker and staff at Barnardo's had secured some funding for her to go New York with College as part of her course in February 2017. The young person spoke about what the trip entailed and how this would benefit her in the future.

Once again the young people were thanked for their detailed update to the Board on all the activities they had been involved in.

6. Care of the Vulnerable Workstream (20 mins)

Kelly Taylor, NHS East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was welcomed to the meeting. Kelly is the lead on improving care for the most vulnerable in Pan Lancashire and CLA and Care Leavers are in this category.

Kelly gave some background on how the Lancashire Transformation Partnership brought together mental health services, CCGs and NHS Health Trusts in Lancashire with schools and many organisations that work with children and young people. Together they wrote a plan last year called "Our Plans for better services – Lancashire Children and Young People's Resilience, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Plan 2015-2020. An update to the plan had now also been produced, which details what had been achieved in Year 1, key priorities and how these would be done.

Kelly tabled the CLA – Gold Standards diagram which detailed the components of what a CLA and Care Leaver should receive. Feedback was requested on this document by end of February. A link to the documents can be found [here](#).

The following [link](#) is to support staff training with regards to the children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing passports and about me cards.

Action: LINX agreed to feedback to Kelly on the Gold Standards and if any member of the Board wanted to feedback that would be welcome also.

Kate informed the Board that LINX had recently met with Chorley CCG around mental health and invited Kelly to a future LINX meeting.

Kelly distributed a passport Health and Wellbeing card that had been produced which young people own and could take it along to any health or social appointment. The young person can put anything on the card that will make professionals aware of issues, without the young person having to explain it each time, ie if they are challenged in communication, have autism etc. The passports

are available from Voluntary Sector organisations and Lynsey Evans, Foster Carer asked if Kelly could send some to the Fostering Service so these could be distributed to Foster Carers.

Action: Kelly Taylor to send Sam some more passports to give to the Fostering Service for distribution.

Kelly was thanked for her presentation to the Board.

7. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms and the Local Areas Inspection (15 mins)

Stephen Martin, SEND Senior Manager East Lancashire, LCC spoke to the report that was circulated with the agenda.

Stephen informed the Board of the changes that had happened in September 2014 with the Children and Families Act and asked what reports, briefings and information on SEND the Board wished to receive and how frequently they wished to receive it.

Following discussion it was:

Resolved: i) that the Board received further data on how many CLA came into the SEND category and this would be shared with the Board and further discussions would then be had on how as a Board this is taken forward.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 20 April 2017 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Duke of Lancaster Room – Cabinet Room 'C', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

10. CPB Annual Report to LSCB

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk.

11. Update on Activity Day

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email georgine.lee@lancahire.gov.uk.

Minute Item 4

What LINX have been doing since 1st December 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Number of young people</u>
2 nd December 2016	Children's Rights Alliance for England meeting in London	1 member of LINX and 1 member of POWAR
6 th December 2016	LINX Media group meeting	3 members of LINX and
13 th December 2016	Young Inspectors meet to write reports following visits to local authority residential units	4 members of LINX
14 th December 2016	LINX attend PROUD 2017 awards planning meeting	1 member of LINX
20 th December 2016	Lancashire Participation Service Christmas Party	20 member so LINX
3 rd January 2017	Media Group meet to write new year newsletter	5 members of LINX
10 th January 2017	LINX look at CSE training for professionals to make it more young people friendly	2 members of LINX
11 th January 2017	The Post Ofsted Young Person's Group meeting	6 members of LINX
12 th January 2017	Stories To Connect With Group meet to develop their research	5 members of LINX
10 th January 2017	Young Inspectors meet to write reports following visits to local authority residential units	2 members of LINX and 6 members of POWAR
13 th January 2017	Young person's interview panel for Barnardo's trustees	1 member of LINX and 1 member of POWAR
13 th January 2017	Corporate Parenting Board presentation to the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board	1 member of LINX
18 th January 2017	Care Leavers Forum in Central Lancashire Agree to pilot an ASDAN in their role as members of the Preparation for Independence Working Group	4 care leavers
23 rd January 2017	LINX attend speed interviews for prospective social workers at county hall	5 members of LINX

24 th January 2017	LINX hold their monthly combined meeting	7 members of LINX
25 th January 2017	LINX East group meet at Burnley Youth Zone	6 members of LINX
25 th and 26 th January 2017	LINX attend shortlisting for the PROUD 2017 awards	5 members of LINX





Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report

**Our key comments
include.....**

**Numbers of Children
Looked After in
Lancashire are less
than our statistical
neighbours in the
North West**



**Re-referral
rates have
stayed low**



**'5 out of 100
children looked
after have moved
twice or more' This
is good and those
5% may have
moved as they
don't like their
placement.**



'66% of looked after children are in a long and stable placement'

Looked after children need a safe and encouraging place to live.

This could be to do with foster carers offering short term placements?



**Children missing
from care are now
recorded using LCS –
please can you
explain this to us?**





**76 children looked
after missing from
Lancashire is 'bad'**

**14% of children
looked after achieving
5 A*-C in GCSE's
'more support is
needed for young
people at this stage'**



**5 permanent exclusions
of children looked after
'Can we compare this to
exclusions all children
and young people?'**



**Number of fixed term
exclusions has reduced and
is within target**



**79% of children looked after have an
up to date dental assessment**



**More children that ever
are being provided with a
permanent home under
adoption, special
guardianship order or
residence orders**



51% of care leavers are in education, training or employment
'Even though this is less than the national average of 88% we think this is good'



37 care leavers are studying at university.

‘This is good but we feel that whilst at university care leavers don’t have enough emotional or financial support’



The End



Children Looked After Young Inspectors Update December 2016



February 2017

There are currently 16 trained members of the Children Looked After Young Inspectors Team

The Young Inspectors visit

- fostering agencies
- Lancashire County Council residential units
- Private residential units

Since the last Corporate Parenting Board Meeting 6 weeks ago the young inspectors have all come together to meet three times



In their meetings they have written the reports following visits to 3 residential units and returned them to the managers and to the local authority.



The young inspectors have written reports on the following mainstream local authority residential units:

- Grange Avenue visited on 27th October
- Eden Bridge residential visited on 24th November
- Warwick Avenue visited on 1st December

Recommendations to the residential units included



For the young people to have more of a say in the decision making process through using a comments board or a suggestions box



To have a good news board which visitors and the young people can look at which shows events such as days out, holidays and success stories



For all young people and staff to have a one page profile which they can share with any new young people. The new young person to also have a one page profile which can be shared. This will let staff and young people know about each other before meeting and how they want to be looked after and supported.



Young People to try to tell staff that things should not just change when Ofsted come but to just be who they normally are when Ofsted visit



To explain to new comers at 16 years or over about independence and what real life is like



In February the Young Inspectors are visiting Barnardo's Fostering services



And finally.....check out the British Youth Council website which names Young Inspectors, LINX and Fostering and Adoption Service as winners of the Youth on Board Awards 2016:

<http://www.byc.org.uk/awards/youth-on-board/award-winners>



Care Leaver Sanctions Quiz

The following questions relate to the figures
for England from The Children's Society
Report 'The Cost of Being Care Free'
June 2016

Between October 2013 and September 2015 how many sanctions were applied to care leavers benefits?

A) 4390

B) 980

C) 2560

If a care leaver was late or missed an interview with their job centre advisor and this was the first time this had happened, how many weeks would their jobseekers allowance be sanctioned for?

A) 1 week

B) 2 weeks

C) 4 weeks

How many weeks would the sanction be applied for if it was the third time the care leaver was late or missed the appointment?

A) 13 weeks

B) 3 weeks

C) 9 weeks

Housing benefit is a sanctionable benefit

A) True

B) False

C) Not Sure

Housing benefit is sometimes sanctioned as Jobseeker's Allowance can be a passport to receiving Housing Benefit, so when Jobseeker's Allowance is removed, the Housing Benefit is incorrectly removed too

Of the 4390 care leavers who were sanctioned, how many chose to challenge those sanctions?

A) 45%

B) 70%

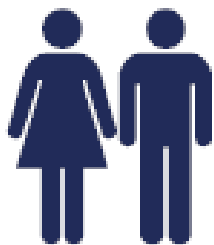
C) 16%

How many of these sanctions
were overturned?

A) 22%

B) 62%

C) 32%



Our evidence shows at least

3,960

**sanctions have been
applied to care leavers
since October 2013**

For every 39 adults in the general working age population how many sanctions are applied?

A) 3

B) 1

C) 6

For every 39 care leavers how many sanctions are applied?

A) 3

B) 1

C) 6

Care leavers are **three times** more likely to have had a benefit sanction applied than the general population

We would like to share these two videos with you about the impact of benefit sanctions on care leavers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37363544>

