

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6th December, 2012 at 6.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'D' - County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Tony Winder	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Andrea Kay	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Carolyn Evans	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Jennifer Mein	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Louise Taylor	- Director for Specialist Services, Directorate for Children and Young People, Lancashire County Council
Kathryn	- LINX representative
Mark	- LINX representative

Co-opted members

Katherine Ashworth	- representing Young People's Service, Lancashire County Council
Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Young People
Sue Parr	- representing The Virtual School, Lancashire County Council
Paul Hegarty	- Children's Social Care

Other Attendees

Mark Elliott	- Clerk to the Board - Governance and Project Support Team, Lancashire County Council
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, Lancashire County Council
Louise Mackender de Cari	- Strategic Integrated Service Development Team, Lancashire County Council
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	- Barnardos
Anne-Marie Ranson	- Adoption Service Manager
Debbie Ross	- Primary Care Trust
Brendan Lee	- ACERS Residential Manager
Jeff Marsh	- Barnardos

Val Baxter	- Primary Care Trust (Shadowing Debbie Ross)
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Cathy Trengove	- Barnardos

63. Introduction and Apologies

Introductions around the room were made and apologies were noted from County Councillors Case, Leadbetter and Taylor and Paul Armitage, Nicola Bamford, and Lin Fisher.

The Board was informed that Debbie Ross has replaced Cath Randall as the representative from the health economy. The Chair gave thanks on behalf of the Board for the contribution Cath had made to the Board, especially under his stewardship.

The Chair said that David Galt had stood down as a member of the Board. Following a discussion it was agreed to seek two nominations one as a replacement adoptive parent and one person who had themselves been adopted. These nominations would need to be agreed with the Leader of the County Council.

In acknowledging the role the Children's Society play as advocates of young people it was agreed to give the Children's Society co-opted non-voting status on the Board.

64. Notes of the Meetings held on 6 September 2012

The notes of the meetings held on 6 September 2012, subject to the addition of the names of those In Attendance, were agreed as an accurate record.

65. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2012

It was noted that the Board would now be using the What's Changed Tool at each meeting to ensure that any actions are clearly allocated to the right person and a timetable agreed for the completion of the tasks.

66. What our Elected Members Have Been Doing

CC Winder updated the Board on the various meetings, visits and actions he had been involved in as the Chair of the Board.

A particularly sad event was the funeral of a young person who had attended the Board in the past. The Chair and Deputy Chair attended on behalf of the Board.

Also it was agreed to ask the CiCC to consider the touring of the Urban Patch (Quilt) with regard as to whether they would like the quilt to tour and if so what form the tour should take.

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

The Chair introduced a discussion around what support corporate parents should be giving to the young people for who LCC are the corporate parent.

The Board felt it most appropriate to take this forward by having discussions with young people early in the New Year.

All partners should be involved in those discussions and the discussions should link with the priorities of the Board.

The Board received a number of comments from the Ambassador for Young People and Barnardos on work that had been started with the previous CiCC provider that they would not wish to lose sight of. These included the actions from the Wolverhampton event earlier this year eg bus passes for 16-18 year olds.

The first meeting of LINX was scheduled to take place on 18 December where Barnardos will consult with young people about what they want to do in the future, the establishment of a primary group and the possible holding of a residential.

The Chair asked that LINX consider the celebration event for next year and link in with County Councillor Andrea Kay who has been working with Blackpool Pleasure Beach around a possible event there.

68. Adoption and Fostering: Tackling Delay: DfE Consultation

Anne-Marie Ranson took the Board through a report circulated with the agenda outlining the changes the Government are looking to make in the way the fostering and adoption service work.

Reference was also made to the scorecard regarding performance which the Minister had written to 39 local authorities, Lancashire being one regarding. Anne-Marie assured the Board that work was being undertaken to improve Lancashire's position. Caution was expressed that speed in dealing with applications is not always the best way to be categorised.

The Chair thanked Anne-Marie for the presentation and the recently held training day which he personally found very useful.

69. Update on Priorities from 2011/2012 and Priorities for 2013

Sue Parr led the Board through a presentation on the Education, Employment and Training priority which a working group had been dealing with. Whilst there

was a number of encouraging statistics, further work was required on some areas, for example, around fallout rates of CLA attending university.

Due to limited time left in the meeting it was only possible to have a quick discussion around the other priorities.

A number of successes were identified and areas for improvement in 2013 included the number of CLA attaining accreditation through the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) and ensuring CLA are aware of new developments such as Youth Zones and Outdoor Activity Centres through the development of an eDirectory.

Further priorities for next year should include regular access to dental health, opticians, doctors, etc, improve placement stability and choice, looking to include health in placement decision-making.

The Board agreed to sign up to the Leaving Care Charter recently issued by the Government.

70. 2013 Meeting Schedule

The Board noted the dates of its meetings for 2013.

71. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 7 February 2013 at 6.00pm at County Hall, Preston.

72. Grant Funding Applications

The current position regarding applications was noted.