






Corporate Parenting Board Performance Report April 2013

Summary for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

- The number of children looked after continues to rise across Lancashire.
- The number of initial and core assessment completed has risen across Lancashire.
- Re-referral rate has improved to a lower rate.
- Placement stability for children looked after has improved.
- Attainment for children looked after remains low, in comparison to their peers.
- Attendance of children looked after at primary school is good, and attendance of children looked after at secondary school has improved.
- The number of Adoptions, Special Guardianship Orders and Residence Orders have all risen in the past year.
- The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has fallen.
- The number of care leavers in education, employment or training has risen, but is still below the expected level.
- A record number of care leavers commenced first year university courses this year.

Activity for Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Number of Children Looked After

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
1296	1324	1482 *	Reduce	
				

* Provisional

The number of Children Looked After in Lancashire continues to rise. There is no obvious reason for the rise in the number of CLA, other than improved identification of those in need (as described below). There is no particular cohort that has seen a rise, with more babies and infants being taken into care, as well as a larger number of primary school aged and older children being taken into care also.

Service Activity

The table below shows the service activity over the last 5 years. Contacts are the number of contacts to the call centre which do not proceed any further. Referrals are contacts which become a valid referral to Children's Social Care. Initial assessments are carried out as a result of a referral, and if further investigation is needed, a core assessment will be undertaken.

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Contacts <i>per month</i>	--	--	1381	1557	1564 **
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1659	1470	1389	1175	1346 **
Initial Assessments	6881	8636	10071	9891	10453 **
Core Assessments	2241	2932	4246	5019	5384 **

** February 2013

The call centre operated by Care Connect has had success in filtering out the contacts from referrals, hence the rise in the number of contacts and the fall in the number of referrals, however there has been rise in the number of referrals this year, possibly due to an increased number of referrals from the police which now account for 2 out of every 5 referrals, which is above the national average rate of referral by Police.

There is a link between the rise in the number of children looked after and the number of assessments being carried out; The service is now carrying out double the number of core assessments than it did 5 years ago. As a result of carrying out more assessments, it is likely that more children have been identified as being in need of care services resulting in a rise in the number of children looked after.

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. As the service should be meeting the needs of the child or young person first time around, a high re-referral rate is a negative indicator of the service provided although a low percentage is acceptable as a number of re-referrals are appropriate to be re-referred.


	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Re-Referral No's	408	379	353	279	337 *
Re-Referral %	24.6%	25.8%	25.4%	23.7%	20.6% *
	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓

* Provisional

Since 2010, there has been a clear shift in the rate of re-referrals in Lancashire, from a normal level of around 25% of referrals being re-referrals to around 20% of referrals being re-referrals. This is possibly due to the introduction of the Contact and Referrals Team (CART), now known as Care Connect, which successfully filter contacts and referrals to ensure that each receives an appropriate response.

Stability of Placements of CLA: Number of Moves

This indicator looks at how many children looked after had 3 or more placements during the past year, expressed as a percentage of all 12 month period


Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
10.4%	9.5%	8.7% *	9.5%	
↓	↓	↓	✓	

* Provisional

Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after. Less children than ever have multiple placement moves (more than 3 placements), but further improvement is possible (the percentage was just 7.2% in September 2012).

Stability of Placements of CLA: Length of Placements

This indicator looks at how many children looked after have being in their current placement for 2 years or longer, expressed as a percentage of all children looked after placements.

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
66.4%	71.7%	73.4% *	69.0%	
↑	↑	↑	✓	

* Provisional

Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children


looked after. More children than ever have long placements of 2 years or more, as opposed to series of short placements.

Outcomes for Children Looked After

Outcomes data is usually from schools, colleges or university, hence the figures are stated alongside academic year (2011/12 is the academic year started 1st August 2011 and ended on 31st July 2012) rather than financial year (1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012).

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.

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
18.4%	10.6%	6.5%	18.0%	
↘	↘	↘	×	

In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after has fallen significantly, although it is worth noting that each group of children looked after are different, and the performance can vary significantly by year groups.

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.

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Primary	96.2%	96.3%	96.2%	96.0%	
	↔	↗	↘	✓	
Secondary	92.7%	92.5%	94.3%	96.0%	
	↔	↘	↗	×	

CLA attendance at primary school has remained consistent at 96% which is above the target set. CLA attendance at secondary school is lower at 92% but rose in the last school year to 94% which is good progress, although lower than the target.

Exclusions from School of Children Looked After


Exclusions from school are included as a pure number of children looked after either permanently excluded or on a fixed term exclusion.

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Permanent	3	1	4	0	
	↗	↘	↗	×	
Fixed Term	93	98	130	70	
	↗	↗	↗	×	

The target for permanent exclusions is for no child looked after to be permanently excluded from school, but there have been 4 in the last academic year, although only 1 in the previous year to that. The number of fixed term exclusions has risen and was at a high level of 130 fixed term exclusions in the last academic year, nearly double the target.

Adoption and Permanence



Adoption Orders

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
60	52	69	#N/A	
↘	↘	↗		

181 children or young people were adopted over the last 3 years, which represents 13% of all children or young people who ceased to be looked after. 69 adoptions in 2011/12 was good performance compared to the previous two years.

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Residence Orders (RO)

Alternative to adoption, but providing permanence, is the SGO or RO, which is expressed as percentage of all care leavers.






	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
SGO	4.9	4.3	8.5	#N/A	
	↗	↘	↗		
RO	8.5	8.6	9.6	#N/A	
	↗	↗	↗		

Both SGO and RO rates have increased in 2011/12, meaning more care leavers than ever are becoming subject to the orders, which is a success.

Outcomes for Care Leavers

Care leavers in suitable accommodation (Old NI 147)

The percentage of care leavers at age 19 that are living in "suitable accommodation".






Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
92.6%	80.2%	78.6% **	89.0%	
				

** Quarter 3

The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has declined from a high level in 2010/11 to a lower level in 2012/12 (based on 3 quarters of the year). There is no obvious pattern to the lower performance, with some care leavers being in various unsuitable accommodations such as custody/prison, temporary lodgings or staying with friends. The number of care leavers not in contact with the authority isn't too high; a high number not in contact can contribute to lower performance.

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.





Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
71.1%	48.4%	54.8% **	67.0%	
				

** Quarter 3

Performance was good in 2010/11, but declined sharply in 2011/12, possibly due to the poor economic climate at the time. Performance has improved in 2012/13, but is some way below the expected levels, and also is below targeted performance.

From this April 2013, Lancashire County Council will be required to contact Care Leavers around their 20th and 21st Birthday as well as the current requirement of contact around their 19th birthday, to check on their progress, accommodation, education, employment or training. This will be reportable from April 2014.

Care leavers at University

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
--	25	37	30	
--				

In academic year 2011/12 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 24 first year students. Care leavers are studying a wide range of courses including degrees in Maths, Science, Law, Business, Nursing, Psychology and Criminology.