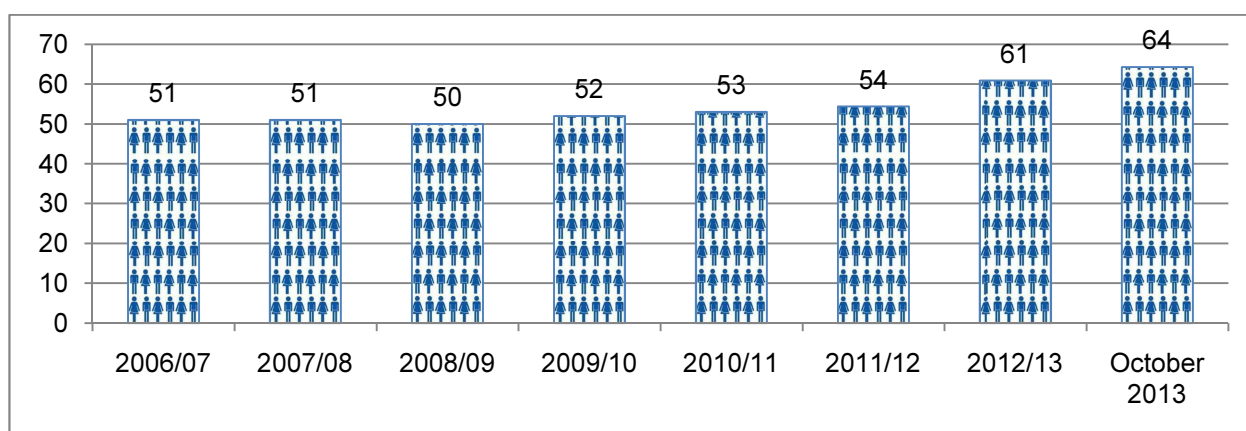


CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, DECEMBER 2013

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of October 2013, there are **1,565** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **61** are currently looked after.
- This is higher than in previous years, and the number of children looked after in Lancashire continues to increase each month.
- There are more children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 59 out of 10,000 are currently looked after.
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (76 out of 10,000) and less than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (66 out of 10,000).



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after continues to increase, and has for the first time risen above the England average.
- ❖ Information to be released will show Lancashire's position compared to others as at 31st March and this information will be included as soon as made available.

➤ There were no comments by the LINX group.

SERVICE ACTIVITY

Service activity helps to explain the rise in the number of children looked after in Lancashire:

- The contact centre has received more referrals than in previous years.
- As a result, the social work teams are carrying out more initial assessments with more children and young people than in previous years.
- The social work teams are also carrying out more core assessments than in previous years. More were completed in the **7 months** between April and October 2013 than in the entirety of 2009/10.



- With more children and young people than ever been identified for referral and assessment, more children are becoming looked after as a result.

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Oct 13
Contacts <i>per month</i>	--	998	1284	1525	833
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1470	1389	1175	1370	1762
Initial Assessments	8636	10071	9891	11288	7839
Core Assessments	2932	4246	5019	5901	3491

COMMENTS:

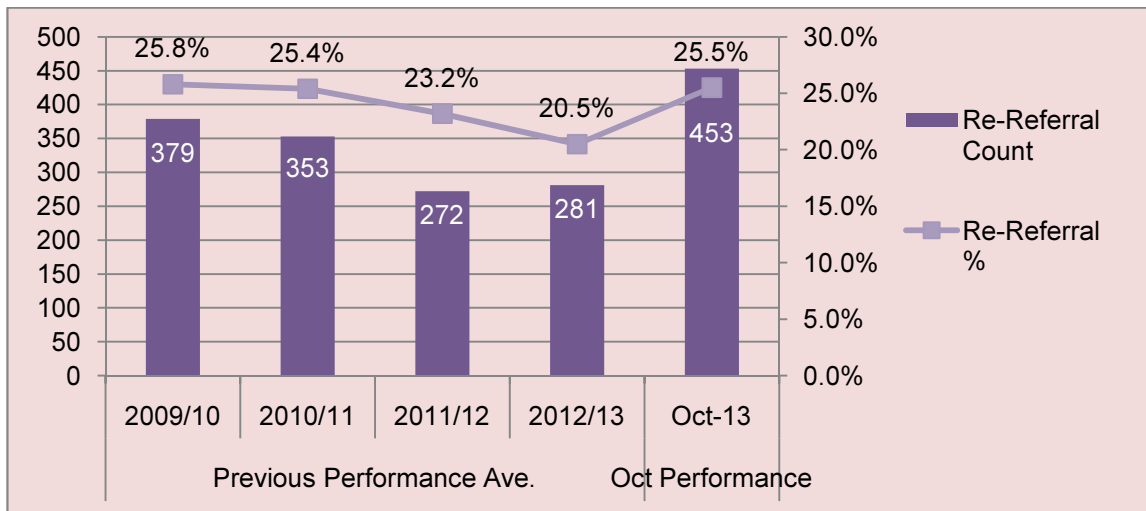
- ❖ Since the introduction of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in April 2013, a large number of contacts from the Police have been passed to MASH rather than going through Care Connect. As a result, contacts have reduced significantly.
- ❖ The average referrals per month for the year to date has been 1762, significantly higher than the amount received in previous years.

➤ There were no comments by the LINX group.

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
 - However, these have increased recently and were reported at 25.5% in October 2013
 - Average re-referral for 13/14 to date also up has increased slightly to 23 re-referrals out of each 100 referrals received
- The LINX group asked about the increase in re-referral numbers, what were the reasons for this and whether there was any specialist team to resolve the increase?
- The group are aware of the increasing work pressures being placed on social work services yet when asked whether the group were continuing to receiving regular support and contact with their social worker in spite of the increasing work pressures the group felt that they were and were supportive of the service they were receiving.



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 shows that less than **8** out of 100 children looked have moved twice or more which is good performance and within the target
- This is also an improvement on last year when 9 out of 100 children looked had to move twice or more during the year



Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		
9.5%	8.7%	7.7%	9.5%	😊
↘	↘	↘	✓	

COMMENTS:

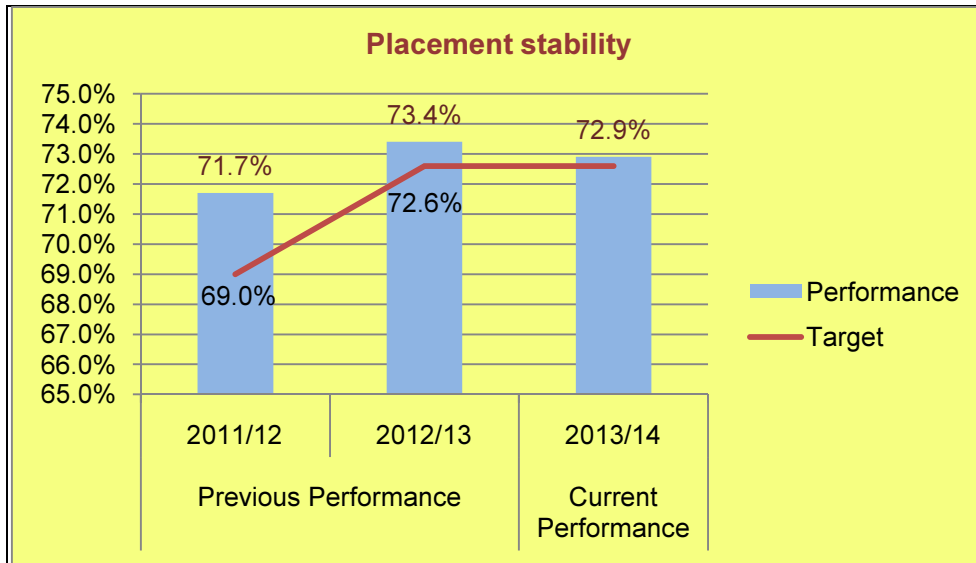
- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after.
- ❖ Fewer children than ever have more than 2 placement moves, but further improvement is possible (only 7 out 100 moved in September 2012).

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 for a long time in their current placement.
- October 2013 info shows that **73** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance and ahead of target.

- Current performance is an improvement on performance from 2 years ago, and is similar performance to last year's performance.



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good work on placement stability through research projects and improved processes.
 - ❖ This has resulted in better performance and improved stability for children looked after.
 - ❖ Performance has decreased slightly in 13/14, but is still above target.
- The LINX group commented on the positive progress with both the downward path of placement moves and the stable length of placements.

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 in 2011/12 is higher than last year with just over 1 out of 10 CLA achieving 5 A*-C
- CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people where 6 out of 10 achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C

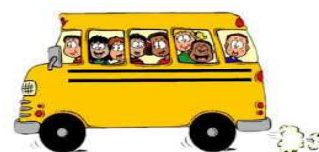
	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Lancs	18.6%	11.9%	12.9%	18.0%	😊
	↘	↘	↗	✘	

England	12.4%	13.6%	14.6%	Higher	
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COMMENT:



- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after improved in 2011/12, but remains below performance from 2009/10.
- ❖ Across England, just over 14 per 100 children looked after achieved 5 A*-C, slightly more than Lancashire's 13 per 100.
- ❖ Attainment by children looked after remains somewhat behind their peers with 6 out of 10 children and young people achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C inc. English and Maths.
- ❖ The results from this summer (2012/13) are provisional and will be made official next year.
 - The LINX group discussed a number of issues related to this important area:-
 - For schools to offer a varied curriculum e.g. contemporary music and dance/drama, more consistently across all schools so that all children and young people being looked after have the opportunity of experiencing new and exciting subjects.
 - For all children and young people looked after to have a more personally tailored learning plan and support that doesn't exclude individual choice due to issues such as options clashes.

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:

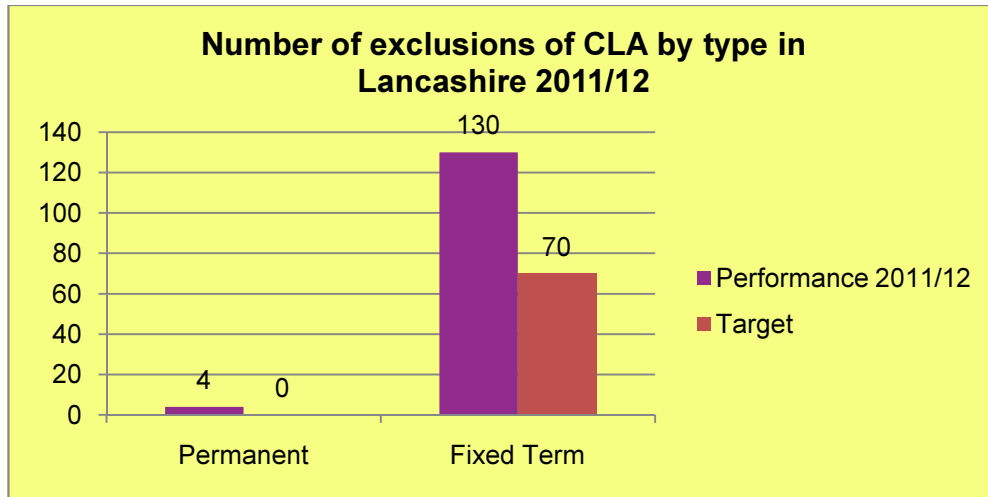
- Attendance in primary school was slightly below target with all children looked after only missing 5 out of every 100 days in school
- Attendance in secondary school was slightly worse than last year, with all children looked after missing 8 out of every 100 days in school
 - There were no comments made by the group.

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Primary	96.3%	96.2%	95.0%	96.0%	
	↗	↘	↘	✘	
Secondary	92.5%	94.3%	92.0%	96.0%	
	↘	↗	↘	✘	

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 fixed term exclusion:

- In the last year there were 4 permanent exclusions of children looked after
- In the last year there were 130 fixed term exclusions of children looked after
- These are both high numbers and outside of the targets set by corporate parenting board



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Exclusions have risen in the last year, and are now at a high level ahead of the target set.
- ❖ This requires action, and a recovery statement should be requested by corporate parenting board.
- ❖ 2012/13 figures are in the process of being collated.

- The LINX group are concerned about the high exclusion numbers.
- The group felt that there should be more support for excluded young people and also to prevent them being excluded.

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, 5 as at October 2013.
- 3 out of 100 children looked after are involved with the youth offending teams, while less than 1 out of 100 children and young people are involved with youth offending teams

- There were no comments made by the group.

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
- This is a lower level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year
- 76 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment
- This is a higher level of up-to-date dental assessments than in the previous 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.



➤ There were no comments made by the group.

ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

ADOPTION ORDERS

- **196** children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased this year to 75 children looked after being adopted, 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:

- 10 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under special guardianship order in the last year, a big improvement on previous years
- 10 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under residence order in the last year, an improvement on previous years

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Overall more children looked after than ever are being provided with a permanent home under adoption, special guardianship order or residence orders; almost 35 out of 100 children looked after in the last year which represents considerable success.

➤ There were no comments made by the group for this section of the report.

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":

- Out of 100 care leavers, 80 are currently in suitable accommodation
- This is lower than two years ago, when 93 out of 100 were in suitable accommodation



COMMENTS:

- ❖ The number of care leavers in suitable accommodation has declined from a high level in 2010/11 to a lower level in 2011/12 and 2012/13. This is below the target of 89 out of 100.

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:

- 55 out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment in 2012/13, which is low performance but an improvement from last year
- As at the end of Quarter 2, 48 out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19th birthday.
- Nationally 85 out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (Sep 2013)



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance was good in 2010/11, but declined sharply in 2011/12, possibly due to the poor economic climate at the time.
- ❖ Performance improved slightly in 2012/13, but was some way below the expected level, and also is below targeted performance.
- ❖ Current performance for 13/14 suggests that just under half of those leaving care since April 2013 were in education, training or employment, some way behind the target of 67 out of 100.

CARE LEAVERS AT UNIVERSITY

- In 2010/11 there were 25 care leavers at university
- In 2011/12 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 24 first year students.



- The LINX group's comments were:
- Leaving care workers should have all available information about what accommodation options there are available in the local area where the care leaver is living.
- There should be better links to other support networks for young people at college
- The available resources and support for care leavers taking under graduate and masters courses.