

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 12th September, 2013 at 6.00 pm
in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Lorraine Beavers	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Gina Dowding	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ron Shewan	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
Kris	- CiCC Representative
Callum	- CiCC Representative
Maggie	- CiCC Representative
Michelle	- CiCC Representative
Mark	- CiCC Representative
Kat	- CiCC Representative

Co-opted members

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Katherine Ashworth	- Young People's Service, LCC
Mark Hudson	- Independent Reviewing Officer, LCC
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care

Other Attendees

Barbara Bath	- Fostering Services, LCC
Stuart Chaplin	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service

Suzanne Cheng	- Integrated Health Services, LCC
Gillian Cookson	- Customer Feedback Team, LCC
Mark Elliott	- Governance and Project Support Team, LCC
Chantel Finlay	- Customer Feedback Team, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Governance Team, LCC
Debbie Nolan-Plunkett	- Barnardos
Anthony Moorcroft	- ACERS, LCC
Michael Sunderland	- Strategy Development, LCC
Faye Woodall	- Barnardos

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Margaret Brindle was welcomed as the Deputy Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board for the remainder of 2013/14 municipal year.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Henig, Lin Fisher, Jane Simpson, Nicola Bamford, Joanna Hunt, Ismail Karolia, Sue Parr and Kate Baggaley.

2. Notes of the Meetings held on 18 April 2013, 17 June 2013 and 25 July 2013

The notes of these meetings were agreed as accurate records.

3. Matters Arising from the Notes of the Meetings held on 18 April 2013, 17 June 2013 and 25 July 2013

There were no matters arising.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

County Councillor Prynn updated the Board on the work she had been doing as Chair of the Board.

This included visits to residential settings, supporting the Staying Put project by viewing properties, attending the Speak Out event in Leyland and meeting council teams across the Directorate for Children and Young People.

Some work that Councillor Prynn would be doing in the near future included increasing participation through the development of a secure on-line forum, analysis of statistics relating to suicide rates amongst children looked after and preparations for the next North West Regional Conference.

Regarding the Conference Councillor Prynn told the Board that Dr Maggie Atkinson had kindly agreed to be the keynote speaker. It was noted that through various sources, Maggie had been singing the praises of Lancashire regarding engagement with young people.

5. What Does Our Performance Tell Us?

Louise Mackender de Cari took the Board through the current performance data.

It was noted that work was needed on some parts of the process relating to missing from care particularly around return interviews.

It was agreed that missing from care be included in future reports and LINX be asked if they wish to look at the data in advance of the Board meetings.

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

The young people updated the Board on work they have been involved with recently.

They had been busy with such things as the meeting with Craig Whittaker MP which will help inform a report to the All Party Parliamentary Group, KOKO training, the Speak Out event and the training of social workers.

It was noted that Kris had today presented to County Councillors as part of the awareness session that had been held.

7. Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention

Barbara took the Board through the current position regarding recruitment and retention, specifically referring to the surveys that Edward Timpson mentioned in his letter of 2 May 2013.

8. Housing Under-Occupancy Rules: Foster Carers, Prospective Adopters and Prospective Special Guardians

The Board had a lively debate on this topic.

The Board was encouraged to take any ideas forward with County Councillors Prynne and Brindle.

9. Beyond All Limits

The Board watched the DVD. The DVD had been produced and performed by some of our talented children with disabilities.

10. Policies

The Board supported the following policies and was happy to see them proceed to the Cabinet Member for approval:

Delegation of Authority
University Fees
Staying Put

11. Customer Feedback Service Annual Report

The Board noted with interest the Annual Report.

The young people were encouraged to discuss the 'what we want from you' slide and come up with ideas as to increase the number of responses to the questionnaire.

Those ideas included posting the questionnaire on KOKO, possible incentives to complete the form and the promotion of the questionnaires by social workers, IROs and other staff groups.

12. Independent Support for Care Leavers

Suzanne introduced the report and answered questions on this topic.

The Board noted the development of service specification and the tender exercise for young people leaving care mentoring scheme that provides an informal relationship for young people approaching adulthood to compliment the current leaving care services.

This is to support young people leaving care as they become adults and independent, at an approximate cost of £40k per annum for 40 young people cases.

13. Residential Care and Fostering

Louise took the Board through the process of commissioning care services.

The Board noted it would receive an update after the first round of commissioning had taken place.

14. Health Complaints Advocacy Launch

The Board noted the information on the Children and Young People's Health Complaints Advocacy Service which helps young people by finding out information, making phone calls, understanding any decisions made, explaining their rights and options, makes formal and informal complaints, prepares for meetings or attend with/for young people and help young people to make their own decisions.

15. Any Other Business

The Board noted that PULSE had been shortlisted for a Young Partners award and an awards ceremony is to be held on 19 October in London.

The Board also wished to change the format of its meetings so that half the meeting is given to the young people to lead and reports and presentations be limited to enable this revised format to work.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted its next scheduled meeting was to be held on Thursday 5 December 2013 starting at 6.00pm, at County Hall.

17. Grant Funding Applications

The current position regarding applications was noted.