

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6th February, 2014 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 Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Cosslett	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
County Councillor Darren Clifford	- Lancashire County Council
Rachel Bland	- Fostering Representative

Co-opted members

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Mark Elliott	- Clerk to the Board
Sam Gorton	- Governance Officer
Elaine Roberts	- ACERS
Kathryn Metcalfe	- ACERS
Sally Allen	- Safeguarding

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and the following apologies were noted:

County Councillors Dowding, Henig, Lord, Snape, Jane Simpson, Katherine Ashworth, Ismail Karolia, Louise Mackender de Cari, Nicola Bamford, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Sue Parr and Catherine Poole.

The Board also received the happy news that Catherine Poole, a member of the Board, had given birth to a baby girl.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 5 December 2013

The notes of the previous meeting on 5 December 2013 were noted as an accurate record. There were no actions arising from the notes that were not going to be picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

Members of the Board (County Councillor Beavers and the Chair) updated the Board on their activities since the last meeting.

These activities included attending events in Manchester sharing how authorities do things for CLA, visiting children's homes, working with head nurse at CCG East Lancashire and the LSCB with a view to making links with partners stronger.

Of particular note was the PROUD event which everyone deemed a great success. Sam was thanked for the organisation of the event and the nominees and winners were all applauded.

4. Action Sheet

The action sheet was noted and all necessary actions would be followed up as appropriate.

5. What Does Our Performance Tell Us?

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the performance data and concerns it had regarding the effect on CLA.

The Board asked that Mel Ormesher be asked to attend the Board in the Autumn to explain how the Early Action project is working and what effect it is having.

The recently formed Children's Social Care Panel which was set up to look at expensive placements would have an effect on what information is known on CLA.

The recently circulated questionnaire which had been prepared in partnership with Children's Society was raised though concern was expressed that the young people at the Board had not heard of it.

Regarding Children who go missing in response to concerns expressed by the young people it was agreed to invite a police representative to a Board meeting.

Concern was also raised about the use of pupil premium and the perceived lack of clarity as to what it's spent on and the fact that the designated teacher needs to be known to the CLA in the school.

6. Attainment of Children Looked After

The Board received a presentation on the attainment of children looked after.

The Board in noting the information asked for figures which compared Lancashire against other local authorities.

7. IRO Annual Report

The Board received an interactive presentation in the style of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire".

The Board thanked Sally and Mark for their presentation and noted the offer that any questions could be fed through LINX or direct to Mark via email.

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

The Board received an update on the activities undertaken by the young people.

These activities included being involved in the SCAYT+ feedback exercise, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the participation checklist which will be emailed to the Board.

The Board watched a short video clip which challenged the stereotypes of CLA. The Chair suggested that the young people might want to consider doing something similar.

9. Any Other Business

The Board was informed of two forthcoming events that they might be interested in:

The Passport to Parliament Event on 21 February in the Great Hall at Liverpool Hope University, and

The North West Regional Corporate Parenting Board Conference on 17 February.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Board noted its next scheduled meeting was to be held on Thursday 24 April starting at 6pm with light refreshments available from 5.30pm.

11. Ofsted Questionnaire Summaries

The summaries were noted for information.

12. Grant Funding Applications

The list of grant fund applications was noted. The Board were reminded that the funding would cease on 31 March 2014.