

Dear Head teacher,

We are LINX – Lancashire’s Children in Care Council. We meet up regularly to talk about things that affect children in care living in Lancashire. We go to meetings at County Hall with the Corporate Parenting Board and we have members sitting on Lancashire’s Youth Council and PULSE – Lancashire’s young people emotional health and well-being board.

We have recently been looking at the educational attainment figures for children looked after in Lancashire (CLA) and we feel concerned about the results. CLA educational attainment in Lancashire is 12.9%, 2.4% lower than the national average for CLA. Additionally CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people of whom 59.2% achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C including Maths and English. (See table attached).

We feel very strongly that education for some children looked after in Lancashire could be improved and we feel the Pupil Premium is an ideal resource to tackle this issue. Therefore we are writing to schools in the county to ask if they would like to share with us how they have spent their Pupil Premium funding in order to help children in the care system do their best.

We would like share ideas between schools and we are hoping to develop a quality mark for schools that show us their good work with children in care. This could be displayed on your website where you publish your report on Pupil Premium spending.

Whilst discussing education it also came to light that some CLA do not know who their designated teachers are. We feel it is important for young people to know this and we would like to ask if you will share with us how your school makes their designated teacher known to pupils who are looked after.

We have attached to this letter our recommendations of how to spend the pupil premium and would be grateful if you could send us any information you have by 30th July 2014.

We look forward to your response, yours sincerely

Additional Information

Educational Attainment of Young People Achieving A* - C including Maths and English

	Previous Performance		Current Performance
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
CLA Lancs	11.9%	12.9%	12.9%
All CYP Lancs	60.1%	59.9%	61.2%
CLA England	13.6%	15.0%	15.3%
All CYP England	59%	59.4%	59.2%

Recommendations from young people

- Schools to show a spending breakdown of pupil premium on their website
- LINX to be able to view examples of receipts or invoices where pupil premium money has been spent
- Schools to show how they let young people know how they can access resources
- Evidence of extra lessons that young people have attended or educational trips
- A letter to young people letting them know they are entitled to pupil premium
- Evidence that young people have been informed about their pupil premium and given options and limitations on how to spend it
- Evidence of how young people are informed about who to speak to regarding their pupil premium