

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th June, 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 Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Chris Henig	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Universal and Early Support Services
Sam	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Paige	- LINX Representative
Mark	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative
Georgina	- LINX Representative
Kat	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Marc Bentley	- Ambassador for Children and Young People
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Shona Cornthwaite	- LCFT WHS
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Caroline Beswick	- Children's Society in Lancashire
Sandra Bilsborrow	- Young People's Service (on behalf of Kathy Ashworth)
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Governance Team, LCC
Joanna Hunt	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Mark Robson	- ACERS

1. Introductions and Apologies

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

Katherine Ashworth, Sue Parr, Catherine Poole, Annette McNeil and Lesley Tiffen.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising held on 24 April 2014

The notes of the previous meeting on 24 April 2013 were noted as an accurate record. There were no actions arising from the notes that were not picked up elsewhere on the agenda.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

County Councillor Prynn distributed the Regulation 22 visit packs to the Elected Members whom have undertaken the training to carry these out as part of their role on the Board.

It was noted that the Elected Members are to have completed at least one visit by 31 July 2014 and if at all possible, another by the next CPB meeting in September 2014.

A standing item is on the agenda for every CPB on feedback for the visits that have been carried out.

It was also reiterated that the offer of an officer accompanying an Elected Member on their initial visit only can be requested via Sam Gorton who will arrange this with the Head of Residential Services.

If any further clarification is sought around the visits, then contact County Councillor Prynn/Sam Gorton.

4. Action Sheet

There were no issues arising from the action sheet.

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

Detailed feedback was given from the Young People and Barnardos on what they had been doing since the last meeting.

Kat and Mark are involved with the National Young Experts Group who will help to develop the Care Monitor survey. This year will be the first time Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England, will build upon this important piece of work. This Young Expert Group will play an important part in our thinking and what we do. The Care Monitor is a survey aimed at children aged 8 years and older who are in care, to find out how well they are being cared for and what, and how things could be improved. The findings are shared with Government, local authorities and organisations that work with children in care and care leavers. The group will meet 3 to 4 times a year and help us review, develop and learn from Care Monitor.

Kat is taking part in the following project: The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) is doing a Creative Participation Project which aims to explore the impact of austerity on the lives of children and young people.

The project will work with eight European countries to support four children and young people to take part for each country. From your part this means asking four children and young people if they would like to be involved for England.

Georgina attended the All Party Parliamentary Group in London which was focusing on foster placements and residential homes and that choices should be given to young people on these. This work is being carried out by the Who Cares Trust.

LINX presented a [video](#) called "Taking It to the Next Level" and discussion ensued around improving communication with young people. It was felt that communication was good between the Board and the young people and the use of KOKO (Kids OK Online - social media set up by Barnardos) was better than Facebook.

Kate informed the group that the Founders of KOKO had been invited to the next meeting in July and was awaiting a reply.

County Councillor Prynne informed the group that work is still being carried out in trying to establish the best way for communication to be sent to young people in care and that discussions were taking place with the Young People Service.

Action: Sandra Bilsborrow agreed to follow this up with Kathy Ashworth and to report back at the September meeting.

LINX led the Board through the Performance Report which was attached to the agenda. Young people queried as to why they had to have yearly health assessments when others who were not in care did not require one. Debbie

Ross explained that the Directorate of Health says that they are required for all CLA, however a number of health professionals receive the same comment that LINX have raised. This has been feedback at a national level and they have agreed to review it.

Action: Debbie Ross will update the Board further when information is available.

Young people commented that they found it extremely useful that Diane Booth had attended a LINX meeting to talk them through the performance report prior to the CPB meeting and they felt that they had a better understanding of the data that was being presented.

Young people felt that more should be done to support families to reduce re-referral rates. Diane Booth said that work was being carried out around early support and the evidence based programmes that Working Together With Families have on their agenda and looking at Lead Professional Roles which will help the engagement process to try to reduce this. The Common Assessment Framework has been refreshed and relaunched and an early support offer is awaited.

Action: Diane Booth agreed to bring data back to this meeting when available.

Discussion arose around "Food banks" and whether spending £10,000 on services or giving £10,000 to food banks would have more of an impact in supporting families. Early support strategies can feed into that and feedback on how the strategies are going forward will be welcomed by the Board.

Diane Booth explained that the processes around children missing from care are changing. There will be a new protocol whereby CYP are not reported missing straight away in case they are just running late. Also the police will be able to change missing to absent on the young person's records. LINX agreed with this approach.

With regards School Attendance, young people feel that if more practical vocational courses were offered attendance would be greater. The Board were informed that this is where the best use of Pupil Premiums could work better and that a further update on them will be received at Item 8.

LINX informed the Board that they had sent out a letter (as attached) to all Headteachers regarding the Pupil Premium and had only received two replies. They requested that the CPB write a supporting letter to the group and requested help with this. The Board agreed and LINX gathered together the information to draft a letter from the group work and correlate the information.

Action: This Information will be presented back to the Board at the July meeting.

An activity was carried out on budgets that were given to care leavers and the adults became the care leavers and the young people were the bankers. This heightened the awareness of what care leavers are expected to live on. Another exercise was also presented and the findings are attached.

More information was requested around Junior ISAs and that foster carers need to know this information also.

Action: It was agreed that Jackie Fanner be invited along to the December meeting to update the Board on this.

6. Activity Days

The recommendations that were tabled at the meeting as attached to the minutes were agreed by the Board.

Action: Sam Gorton to send the recommendations on behalf of the Board to Diane Booth and Stasia Osiowy.

7. Fostering for Adoption and Concurrent Placements

Diane Booth spoke to the report attached with the agenda. There were no issue arising from the report.

Action: It was agreed that an updated report be brought back to the Board in six months time.

8. Changes to CLA Personal Educational Plans (PEPS) and Pupil Premium Grant Conditions

Mark Robson updated the Board on the changes and spoke to the presentation attached to these minutes.

The new system will give confirmation that the Pupil Premiums are being spent on the individual in receipt of it and it will be tracked on a six months basis. The IRO will also monitor the map at every review.

Action: Examples of the maps are to be brought to the meeting in September by Sue Parr/Mark Robson.

Carers are also being briefed on the changes.

A discussion ensued around letters being automatically sent as soon as a young person comes into care and it was agreed that children aged 5-10 years old, the carer will receive the letter, and from 10 upwards the young person and carer will receive a letter. It should contain examples on how to spend the money. If a child is still in care at the age of 10 then another letter be sent to them as an individual

Action: Diane Booth agreed to work with Sue Parr regarding this.

It was noted that where CLA are placed out of County in Scotland or Wales then Lancashire will pay the Pupil Premium, however, it is not paid when CLA are placed Scotland.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 24 July 2014 at 1.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ. Refreshments will be served from 12.30pm in the Assembly Hall.

This meeting is where the young people take over in setting the agenda and chairing the meeting.

Minute Item 5



Lancashire Participation Service
Bradbury House, 453 Leyland Road,
Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancashire,
PR5 5SB
Tel: 01772 629470



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

Care Leaver Finance

16-18 years old

If a Care Leaver leaves care between ages of 16 - 18 then Leaving Care Service will cover their finances including rent etc and give them a weekly payment of £70. Once they reach the age of 18 they then go on the next step.

18+

When Care Leavers reach the age of 18 or leave care at 18 they usually go on to either Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support from the Department of Work and Pensions. This in most cases is a sum of £57.35 a week to live.

Costs

The Leaving Care service will give the young person a grant called the Leaving Care Grant of approximately £1900. This covers the household products the young person needs to set up home.

The young person will have to pay their own bills, however Leaving Care will pay for 1 full year TV Licence. Their weekly outgoings vary between each young person based on what they need to pay for, size of house, district and amount of gas and electric they use. The average weekly amounts are as follows:

Gas - £9

Electric - £12

Water - £5

TV Licence - £5

Council tax - £5

Mobile telephone - £5

Total - £41

This leaves a total of £16.35

The amount they have left has to cover their social life, food, drink, toiletries and other supplies including transport.

If a young person has had to move into a house bigger than 1 bedroom then they are also more than likely to have to pay some money towards their rent.

Unfortunately there are a number of care leavers who have ended up in debt because they are trying to live. It is also a case that care leavers need to either have children or have a disability that qualifies them to disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments. Also it is known that many care leavers don't have the budgeting skills to manage their finances, many young people from Residential and Foster Care don't seem too really to have any assistance prior to leaving to look at budgeting. It seems that the main group who have some skills are those who have stayed with Bed Space. *

*This information has been provided by a Leaving Care Worker from Lancashire County Council.

If a young person leaves care between 16-18 and they receive the £70 weekly from Lancashire County Council get used to this figure then on their 18th Birthday they have the big drop from £70 - £57.35 a difference of £12.65. If they have been on the £70 for a long time then they are very likely to find it very hard to go down to £57.35.

Written by:

Marc Bentley

Volunteer - Barnardo's Participation Service

01772 629470

24 June 2014

Corporate Parenting Board Recommendations for Activity Days

Whilst the CPB recognises the need to ensure our children and young people looked after are given the best opportunities to find suitable families, we feel there is a need to ensure any approach that is adopted is monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis and also has member and young persons' involvement. This is even more paramount whenever activities, such as this, have been highlighted as contentious, receiving some criticism.

Following discussion amongst the Board members and research concerning what is happening in other Authorities, the following recommendations have been compiled by the CPB to aid LCC professionals involved in the organisation and planning of activity days:

- i) We would like the CPB be informed in advance of any future activity days.
- ii) We would also expect LINX to be informed in advance of future activity days
- iii) It would be helpful for a restricted number of Councillors and LINX members to be able to attend any future activity days on a planned basis in order to aid their evaluation.
- iv) We would expect the aims and format of the day to be clearly outlined to allow the CPB to have an informed discussion about the events prior to their taking place.
- v) The CPB members would expect be given an opportunity to challenge part of the activity day on a planned basis, if required.
- vi) The CPB would like feedback/update following an Activity Day including numbers of successful matches and other appropriate outcomes. This could be undertaken by an officer during a subsequent CPB meeting.

We all want the very best for our children and young people including helping them secure a safe and happy family. Working together will strengthen us all in this aim.

Lancashire Virtual School for Children Looked After

Changes to - CLA Personal Educational Plans (PEPS) and CLA Pupil Premium Grant Conditions

Lancashire Virtual School for Children Looked After

Sue Parr Head of Virtual School for CLA
Mark Robson Education Consultant - East
Chris Berry Education Consultant – North/South
Alison Brown Business Support Officer
Jamie MacPherson Apprentice Business Support

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Preston

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Lancashire Context

- Increasing numbers of children and young people coming into care
- Lancashire had 1565 CLA as at April 2014
- CLA continue to make poor progress in comparison to their peers not in care

LANCASHIRE CONTEXT : continued

- There are approximately **400** *primary* children in care
- There are approximately **600** *secondary* children in care
- The vast majority of Lancashire's CLA are cared for by foster carers - either Lancashire foster carers or Foster Care Agencies
- A minority of Lancashire CLA are cared for in Residential Children's Homes
- A small minority are cared for by parents

LANCASHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

- Ensures that Children Looked After in Lancashire are not falling behind or underachieving within education.
- Ensures that Children Looked After have opportunities to participate in activities which will enhance and improve not only their educational attainments and progress, but will add to their emotional, social and behavioural wellbeing.
- Ensures that the progress of Children Looked After is monitored e.g by visiting schools and other services involved with the education of CLA

Virtual School and Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for CLA

The Virtual School has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the timely **completion** and **quality** of PEPs –

- Ensure that all PEPs are completed within statutory time frames - every 6 months
- Ensure that all PEPs are high quality documents which identify the **educational targets, interventions and funding** every CLA requires to improve their educational progress
- Provide information, advice and guidance, when necessary, to ensure that every individual CLA receives the educational support he /she requires to make excellent educational progress.

PEPS - CHANGES

- From April 2014 – the Virtual School no longer uses the ‘*Lancashire ePEP system*’ to record CLA PEPs
- Children’s Social Care have implemented a new information system - *Liquid Logic, to be named Lancashire Children’s System (LCS)*
- This new system provides a new PEP format – integral to the system and which can be pre-populated with CLA information
- It is anticipated, that the new pre-populated PEP will be sent electronically to the school for completion at the PEP meeting.
- The new CSC PEP does not ask for **educational targets, interventions or funding**
- The Virtual School has therefore produced an **Educational Provision Map (EPM)** to identify educational targets, interventions and funding streams for every school-aged CLA
- The Education Provision Map will be used as part of the PEP
- The EPM will then be ‘attached’ to the new PEP on the LCS

Personal Education Plans for CLA

The main participants in contributing to the PEP/EPM and reviewing it at least every 6 months are:

- School's Designated Teacher
- Carer
- The Child Looked After
- The carer's social worker / child's social worker
- The Child's Independent Reviewing Officer

CHANGES to Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

- Previously the CLA element of Pupil Premium Grant has been £900 per CLA and this amount paid direct to the school at which the CLA was on roll.
- As from April 2014 the amount provided by DfE to Local Authority will increase to £1900
- From April 2014, the DfE requires the Virtual School Head Teachers to have responsibility for the management and allocation of CLA PPG funding
- The DfE requires that the allocation of PPG funding must be based on the needs of the child, and that the Head of Virtual School must ensure that there is evidence to demonstrate that the school requires additional funding to meet those needs
- In Lancashire, this funding will be requested as part of the PEP process and allocated/approved by Lancashire's Virtual School for CLA in response to the information and evidence **provided through the Education Provision Map and the PEP**

Approval and Allocation of PPG in Lancashire

- The Virtual School Head Teacher will approve PPG through the school's completion of the CLA Education Provision Map (plus the new LCS PEP)
- The Virtual School Head Teacher will make PPG payments to schools in July and January (a limit of £900 every 6 months)
- Additional PPG Funding will be available for CLA requiring very high levels of educational support

Funding via Virtual School for CLA

- **Pupil Premium Grant**

up to £1800 based on educational targets, interventions and funding identified on Education Provision Map.

(Plus additional Funding for CLA requiring very high educational support- particularly when a CLA is moving schools ,)

- **Personal Education Plan Support Allowance (PEPSA)**

is available via PEPSA request from CLA's Social Worker or the Designated Teacher

- Up to £400 additional funding for any CLA who is significantly underachieving in school
- Up to £200 additional funding to help address any emotional, social and behavioural difficulties via activities outside school
- Based on educational targets, interventions and funding on Education Provision Map

Questions ?