

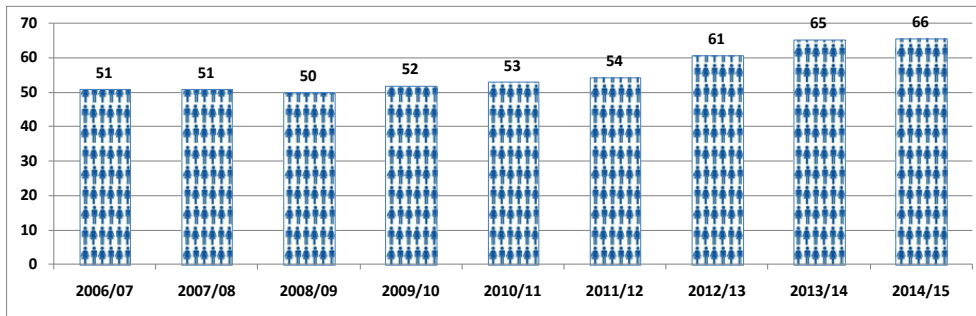
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, 31ST AUGUST 2014

Lancashire changed its integrated children's system from ISSIS to LCS in February 2014; this has an ongoing impact on the ability to report accurate performance, as such some information given below is subject to change.

ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

- As at the end of August 2014, there are **1,605** children looked after in Lancashire.
- For every **10,000** children and young people in Lancashire, **66** are currently looked after.
- The number of children looked after in Lancashire had risen each month until March 2014, but now the number of children looked after has been at a similar level for 6 months.
- There are **more** children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 60 out of 10,000 are currently looked after.
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (79 out of 10,000) and slightly less than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (67 out of 10,000).



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after has levelled off over the last six months, after big increases over the last two years.
- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after is lower than that of Lancashire's statistical neighbours and lower than the average of other North West local authorities

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, although less contacts.
- The social work teams have moved from initial and core assessments to a new single assessment from 1st April 2014. Data on these assessments is only just becoming available, so levels of activity will not be known until sufficient information is available.
- With more children and young people than ever been identified for referral and assessment, more children are becoming looked after as a result, which could be due to rising poverty.



Comment [B]: The young people would like clarity on the definition on contact.

	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Contacts <i>per month</i>	998	1284	1525	750	3837
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1389	1175	1370	1679	1356
Initial Assessments	10071	9891	11288	11865	--
Core Assessments	4246	5019	5901	5724	--
Single Assessment <i>per month</i>	--	--	--	--	629

Comment [B]: The young people would like it explained about the link between referrals and contacts?

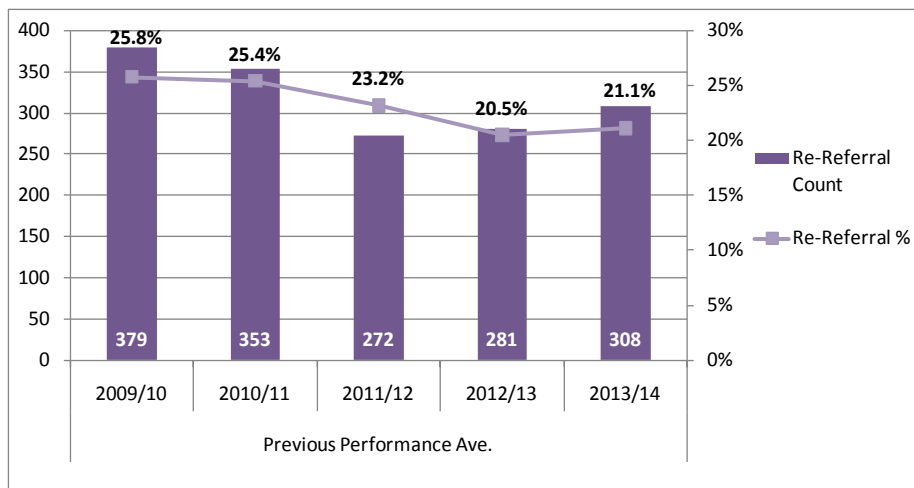
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014, contacts were counted differently including all referrals, hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first four months data shows that an average of 629 assessments is completed per month.

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
- Average re-referral rate for 2013/14 increased slightly to 21 re-referrals out of each 100 referrals received



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Re-referral rates from the new system are difficult to verify, but figures show 29% re-referrals at the end July 2014, a rise on previous months.
- ❖ Young people are concerned about these rising figures and would like to know why there are more re-referrals?
- ❖ Young people feel more should be done to support families to reduce re-referral rates.

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 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%	7.8%	9.5%	😊
↘	↘	↘	✓	

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire has carried out good placement stability work through research projects and improved processes, which has resulted in better performance and improved stability.
- ❖ Fewer children than ever have more than 2 placement moves, but further improvements are possible (only 7 out 100 moved in September 2012).
- ❖ Young people are happy that this is less than last year however they would like to see more research and reasons into what causes placement moves.
- ❖ Placement Stability is difficult to verify within the new system, but recent figures indicate that placement stability is at 6.6% for the end of July 2014.

STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS OF CLA: LENGTH OF PLACEMENTS

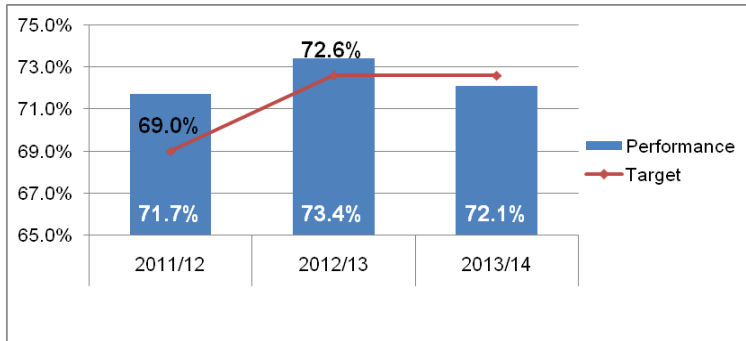
How many children looked after have been in their current placement for at least 2 years:

- 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.
- February 2014 information shows that 72 out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance is an improvement on performance from 2 years ago, but slightly lower than last year's performance.

Comment [B]: The young people believe it is good that there are only 8 out of 100 children looked after moved twice or more, however, they believe it is not good enough there still should be less.

Comment [B]: Even though it is better the numbers have reduced. The young people feel the placements could be better researched to suit the needs of the young person which may reduce the moves made by them.

Comment [B]: This is a good number the young people believed. However they would like the term 'long time' to be defined.



Comment [B]: LINX believe this is a good change, however they commented they may be worried about those individuals who may actually go missing?

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.
- ❖ Young people feel that it is positive that 72% of young people have been settled in their placement.
- ❖ Placement Stability is difficult to verify within the new system, but recent figures indicate that placement stability is at 68% for the end of July 2014.

CHILDREN MISSING FROM CARE

Lancashire County Council and its partners are changing processes for children missing from care, and there will be a new protocol whereby young people are not reported missing straight away in case they are just running late. **Also the Police will now be able to change missing to absent on the young person's record.**

Lancashire County Council works with multiple agencies including Lancashire Police, to monitor the levels of children missing from care and this year's information is below:

	2013/14	2014/15 Q1
Lancashire CLA missing	355	62
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	101
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	232
Other Children Missing	1338	276
Children Missing with Lancashire boundaries	2456	671

COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, around 4 out of 100 children looked after went missing during quarter one (April to June 2014), which is lower than in previous quarters.
- ❖ Over the whole year, 22 out of 100 children looked after are reported missing (2013/14)
- ❖ The numbers represent the number of children looked after, and some children have multiple instances of going missing, an average of 1½ missing episodes per child.
- ❖ LINX have welcomed the changing protocols for children missing, and feel this is good.

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 for 2012/13 has been published and performance remains at 12.9% as it was in 2011/12 which was higher than the previous year.
- CLA attainment remains significantly lower than attainment for all children and young people of whom 6 out of 10 achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C

	Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Lancs	11.9%	12.9%	12.9%	18.0%	😊
	↘	↗	↗	×	
England	13.6%	15.0%	15.3%	Higher	😞

COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, attainment at GCSE among the children looked after remained stable in 2012/13, but remains below performance of 18.6% from 2009/10.
- ❖ Across England, just over 15 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.
- ❖ An update on performance for 2013/14 will be in the next report after September.

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 sessions in school
- Attendance in secondary school was slightly worse than last year, with all children looked after missing 8 out of every 100 sessions in school

	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%	😞
	↘	↗	↘	×	

Comment [B]: The young people were shocked at these statistics. The suggested several reasons to why this may be:

- Being pulled out of lessons by social workers, different staff at the wrong times which are unsuitable for them. The meetings may run over and they are missing too much time from their lessons.
- One young person missed an exam because of this and the worker didn't apologise for it. Which upset them and they feel it could be happening to other young people across the county.
- If staff have to visit, plan better for the young person, possibly over lunch or break. Different lessons may be better to be taken out of if they are ahead or confident in certain lessons.

Comment [B]: Is this a full school day or just single lessons? As they could be marked as absent from a lesson if they are in meetings. This could not necessarily be the young person's fault.

Also sometimes young people withdraw themselves from lessons if they are not able to cope and speak to their designated teacher or someone they feel comfortable with. Would this be classed as an absent session?

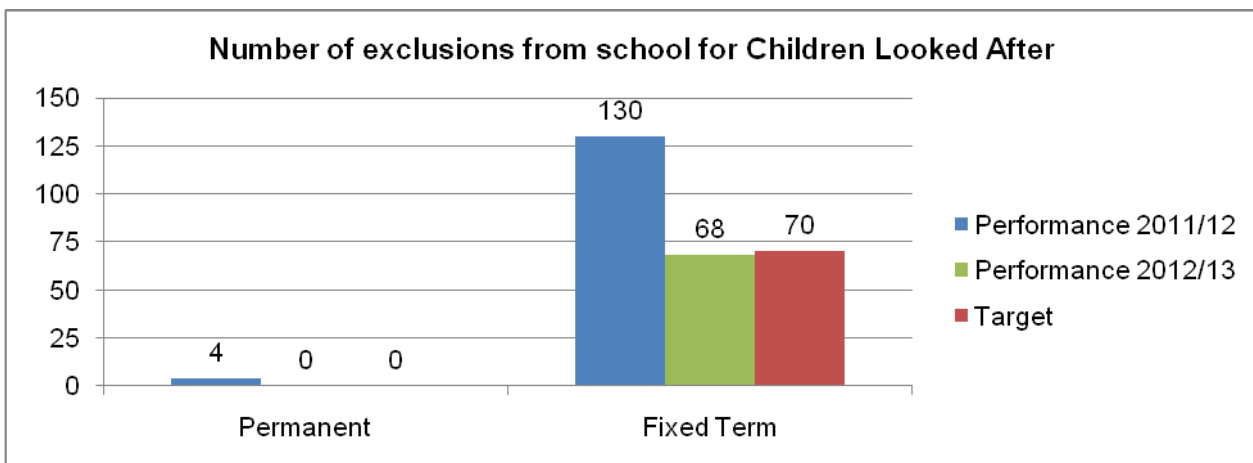
COMMENTS:

- ❖ Young people would like to know more about why young people are missing school and what factors are impacting on their ability to attend school?
- ❖ Young people feel that they should be able to choose what they do at school, for example, completing exams or doing practical courses and perhaps going to college earlier than usual to start these courses.

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 no permanent exclusions of children looked after
- In the last year there were 68 fixed term exclusions of children looked after
- These numbers are both within the targets set by corporate parenting board and a significant improvement on the previous year



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Exclusions have dropped significantly in this academic year compared to a high level in the previous year. Young people are happy about this and feel that it shows things could be improving to support looked after children in schools.
- ❖ Young people would like there to be more research into the reasons for fixed term exclusions. Are schools aware of other factors in the young persons' lives that may be affecting their behaviour at school? If so, are schools offering the right support for those young people?

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, 6 as at 31st August 2014.
- 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.
- Children looked after are three times as likely to be involved with youth offending teams.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER WITH AN UP-TO-DATE HEALTH AND DENTAL ASSESSMENTS

- 53 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (July 2014)
- This is a lower level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year
- 60 out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (July 2014)
- This is a lower 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.
- ❖ Young people feel that the percentage of those with an up-to-date health assessment should be higher – somewhere between 90% and 95%.
- ❖ Young people feel that they should be given a choice as to whether they want a health assessment or not. Young people should only be made to have one if there is a cause for concern.



Comment [B]: The young people feel these numbers are not good, as they should be a lot higher. However they believe there could be several improvements to this system:

- The health assessments should be different for each individual. As each individual has different situations and needs.
- If a young person has a check up at the doctors or nurses this should be counted towards the health assessments.
- Health assessments need to be confidential as in the past some LINX members have had foster carers in the meetings which can be uncomfortable when they are asking personal questions.

ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

ADOPTION ORDERS

- 196 children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased to 75 children looked after being adopted in 2012/13, higher than in previous years.
- Figures show that 83 children looked after were adopted in 2013/14, an improvement on the previous year
- Provisional figures shows that 47 children looked after were adopted in the first 5 months of 2014/15, which indicates a higher number of adoptions than in the previous year.



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:

- 17 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under special guardianship order during 2013/14, a big improvement on previous years
- 10 out of 100 children looked after were given a permanent home under residence order during 2013/14, a slight decrease on performance last year

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Overall more children looked after than ever are being provided with a permanent home under adoption, special guardianship order or residence orders; 43 out of 100 children looked after in the last year (2013/14) which represents considerable success.

OUTCOMES FOR CARE LEAVERS

CARE LEAVERS IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION (OLD NI 147)

Suitable accommodation is regarded as suitable if it provides safe, secure and affordable provision for young people. The percentage of care leavers at age 19 that are living in "suitable accommodation":



- In 2013/14, out of 100 care leavers, **82** are considered to be 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 recent years. 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:



- As at the end of 2013/14, **48** out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19th birthday.
- This is lower performance than in 2012/13 when 55 out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment in 2012/13.
- Nationally 85 out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (Sep 2013)

COMMENTS:

- ❖ Performance improved slightly in 2012/13, but dipped to low performance in 2013/14.
- ❖ Current performance for 2013/14 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.
- ❖ Young people feel that this isn't good enough and more young people should be in education or training

CARE LEAVERS AT UNIVERSITY

- In 2011/12 there were 25 care leavers at university
- In 2012/13 there were a record 37 care leavers studying at university around the country, including 22 first year students. There were 7 graduates in 2012/13.
- In 2013/14 there are 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students.
- Of the previous year's 22 first year students; 15 progressed to the second year, 1 completed with a one year foundation degree, 2 returned to repeat the first year, and 4 left their course.
- There are currently 8 students in their final year, hoping to graduate in 2013/14.



Comment [B]: This number is too low.

Comment [B]:

Individuals need more apprenticeships, volunteering schemes, as they may have had poor grades at school. More opportunities need to be accessible to them. Funding could be used at an earlier intervention to help with grades such as extra tuition. Help could be given to help to find courses and employment. The funds which are available such as college bursaries should be more accessible as not everyone knows about what they are entitled to.

COMMENTS:

- ❖ There is a good level of Care Leavers at University in each of the last two years showing that Leaving Care support is there for potential students.
- ❖ However there it is concerning that 2 in 10 first year students dropped out of university, and a further 1 in 10 repeated their first year. The decision to study at University must be an appropriate choice for the applicant and suitable students need to be well supported.
- ❖ Young people feel that these figures show good progress, but there should be many more care leavers going to university.

Comment [B]: The general comments about university were very negative. As the number of people attending is too low. They young people believed others do not know about the support and funding available to them. As extra provisions can be made to support them through university.

Reasons they thought it could be so low are:

- Leaving care and going to university is at the same time and it can be too stressful.
- Individuals are put off going away to university because they may be worried about not having anywhere to live during the holidays which can be off putting. Is there anything in place to support them on return? As the staying put policy is not for everyone?