

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 4th December, 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 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 Permanence, Protection and Schools
Bradley	- LINX Representative
Kat	- LINX Representative
Mark	- LINX Representative
Sam W	- LINX Representative
Beth	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Sam R	- LINX Representative
Callum	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Katherine Ashworth (late)	- representing Young People's Service, Lancashire County Council
Mark Hudson	- or his representative, representing Independent Reviewing Officers
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Richard Cooke	- Children's Trust Team
Caroline Beswick	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Lorraine Pearson	- Residential Services
Briony	- Young Person
Brooklyn	- Young Person

1. Introductions and Apologies

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

County Councillors Lord and Nicky Bamford.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 11 September 2014

The notes from the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

County Councillor (CC) Prynne thanked all Elected Members who had carried out Regulation 22 visits since the last meeting and that it was pleasing to note the consistent reporting of the care and passion that is given to our children in care.

CC Prynne, along with Bob Stott and Bradley from LINX attended the Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB) meeting on 14 November 2014 to present the work the CPB does. The presentation is attached. Bradley was commended on the amazing job he did with his presentation from LINX and the work they do with CPB and was thanked for attending. From the meeting it was agreed to look at a mechanism to ensure the Police are made aware and acting upon any Child Sexual Health (CSE) issues that arise from the LSCB and CPB.

Action: A protocol to be created jointly by LSCB and CPB.

CC Prynne attended Liverpool City Council's CPB meeting and met with the Chair of the Board, CC Murray. This is following CC Murray's attendance at our Elected Members CPB Development Day which was held on 26 August 2014 where CC Murray came along to talk to our County Councillors on their experience of inspection as a CPB and share good practice. CC Prynne felt that we engaged better with our young people along with the support from Barnardos in our meetings as theirs was more adult focussed.

All Elected Members met prior to this meeting to discuss the Executive Summary: CLA Sufficiency and Commissioning Effective Placements Strategy – 2014-2017. This document will be pertinent to the Board when looking at priorities in the Task and Finish Groups.

CC Beavers attended the Fostering Panel meeting.

CC Brown has undertaken two Regulation 22 visits and attended a Safeguarding conference. Following the last Activity Day he went to, he has since attended another one on 5 October 2014 for a full day and gave positive feedback from this and felt it more beneficial to attend for a whole day than just part of it which helped to understand the whole concept. He also attended the Adoption Panel for a follow up on the progress of the Activity Day.

Action: CC Brown to provide a report to officers from the Activity Day.

CC Prynne was most impressed that officers had actioned recommendations presented by the Board from the previous Activity Day and addressed them for the one held in October.

Action: The Board will continue to monitor the events.

Any potential matches will not be known until January.

Action: Officers to provide a report from the Activity Day at the next meeting.

CC Henig spoke about the Lancashire Fairness Commission that she is involved with which is pulling together information around living in a fairer community. The report will be ready in January and anybody can feed in.

Action: LINX to look at the website and speak to CC Henig about this.

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

Takeover

During Takeover month, the young people have been all over Lancashire therefore their regular meetings have been a bit erratic. However they gave an overview of what they have been doing since the last CPB meeting was held. A breakdown of their activities is attached.

Young Inspectors

The Young Inspectors programme (details attached) is now in operation and this just for CLA. It was requested that the reports are sent to Elected Members and Bob Stott.

Action: Annette McNeil to send reports already received and future reports to Sam Gorton to circulate as agreed.

It was requested that Elected Members have a copy of the questions that the Young Inspectors ask so that they can link in with the Regulation 22 visits they carry out.

Action: Kate Baggaley to forward a copy of the questions to Sam, who will then forward to Elected Members.

Debbie Ross asked if they would consider looking at health services who are involved specifically with CLA. The Board agreed this should be looked into.

Action: Debbie to speak further with Kate around this and signpost the Young Inspectors to the CLA services within health.

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)

Some young people from Lancashire who are involved with the ENOC showed some videos (attached links) that they have produced and been shown around Europe. The Board commented on how very poignant the videos were and that they had made the point brilliantly.

Action: Sam Gorton to send the links to CC Henig so she can link these in with the Lancashire Fairness Commission project.

Christmas Tree Activity

An activity was carried out where the Board were asked to write on the baubles and put on the Christmas trees, in order of priority what they thought people can do to help young people who are looked after. The results are attached. There was a lot of communality from the groups and the majority do not cost a lot of money ie being listened to, being safe, being loved and cared for. We should all look at how we can further support our children in care in the future.

Action: The Board will look at how the priorities such as emotional health and safety highlighted through the activity are being implemented across settings and amongst professionals.

Performance Report

The performance report attached was presented by the young people following their meeting prior to this to discuss it.

Action: Further information is required on the NEET figures. Bob Stott to nominate an officer and ask them to report on what strategies are being devised and implemented to improve the figures.

Regarding the health and dental checks, Debbie Ross and Diane Booth are working on improving the results. Lots of things were highlighted as to why the figures were not good, one being the different targets set by Government for Health and Local Authorities. This has now changed and the measures are the same and updated results will be reported at the next meeting.

Action: To update on the Health and Dental results in February 2015.

It was raised that young people did not like having the health checks as other young people who are not in care do not need them. There is some new guidance around this coming out in March 2015, which will be shared with the Board and is out for consultation.

Action: Debbie Ross to share the draft guidance with Kate Baggaley for LINX's feedback.

Debbie also informed the board that she had feedback at a national level that young people in care in Lancashire were unhappy about having to have the health assessments regularly.

With regards Education and long term placements, a permanence strategy is being developed and will include permanent fostering as the same as adoption.

Action: Diane Booth will go to a LINX meeting to discuss the strategy with them when it is ready and then bring it back to CPB.

IRO Report

Reporting back from the last meeting the young people presented a report to the Board after further discussion away from this meeting. Please see attached report. They had devised some questions to ask the IRO service. Bob Stott commended the young people on an excellent set of questions posed and the Board agreed.

Action: Sam Gorton to send Mark Hudson a copy of the questions and he will feedback the answers at the next meeting.

CC Prynne was concerned that when she was visiting Residential Homes, young people were saying they did not know who their IRO was.

Action: Mark Hudson to follow up.

Rock FM – Young Achievers Award

Kate Baggaley gave some background to the award that the LINX group were nominated for and announced that they had come runners-up. CC Prynne awarded them their certificates.

5. CLA Strategy and Leaving Care Strategy

Young people and the Children's Rights Leaving Care group have been consulted regularly on the strategies which were attached to the agenda, so they are well endorsed by young people.

A website is being developed, which will be young person friendly where all information will be available including these strategies.

Diane agreed to come back later next year when the website is up and running to give a demonstration on it.

The Sufficiency Strategy is taken from the CLA and Leaving Care strategies.

Action: Sam Gorton to email out again the CLA and Leaving Care Strategies to Elected Members.

Diane reported that as part of takeover month, young people took over the CSC Management Team meeting with over 40 managers attending and what young people commented on will feed into the service plan and will also be returning to the service in the New Year to ensure the managers are addressing what was raised by the young people.

6. CLA Educational Attainment

Bob Stott briefed the Board on the findings in Lancashire for 2014 from KS1 to KS4.

It was noted that there were issues across the board with the figures and work needs to be done to improve future results. The Board agreed that this issue needs to be dealt with immediately and that signposting pupil premium could help.

Action: Bob Stott to invite Jonathan Hewitt to the next meeting to inform the Board of the actions being taken to improve targets, along with the Chair of Lancashire Association Secondary Headteachers (LASH) and a member from the Primary Headteachers in Lancashire forum (PHiL).

Discussion took place around the writing achievements at KS1 and if it was not suffice at this age, then it will have a detrimental affect all through school life.

Action: The CPB agreed that a Key Stage 1 CLA writing strategy urgently needs to be devised and implemented across all Lancashire schools and possibly co-ordinated by the designated teachers and Virtual Head. Bob Stott to report back to the Board.

7. Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and Partnership Arrangements

Richard Cooke gave some background as to the changes and why they have taken place around the Children's Trusts and this is detailed in the report attached to the agenda.

Action: Richard agreed to come back to a future meeting to inform the Board how the new partnerships are working.

The next task is to look at the Partnership Boards and how they can work more collaboratively. CPB will be part of this redesign.

Action: Richard Cooke to discuss with CC Prynne and Bob Stott on how to move the redesign forward.

CC Brindle agreed with the proposal at looking at new ways of working and making meetings more meaningful.

CC Prynne has spoken with the Chair of the LSCB when she attended the conference they held for private providers, which she felt was really successful as to how we could have joined up events in the future.

8. Lancashire County Council Provider Report

Diane spoke to the report that was circulated with the agenda and that feedback from young people was positive.

Only a small cohort of foster carers answered the questionnaire and it was discussed as to whether this was something the young people could do for fostering and residential services.

Action: Diane Booth agreed to look further into the questionnaire and questions being asked and to report back at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Bradley announced that he is going to be helping Kate at Barnardos with uploading information into KOKO which is their online website.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 5 February 2015 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Information Items

These items were not discussed at the meeting as they are for information only. Any issues arising from them, please forward to Sam Gorton, Clerk to the CPB who will forward to the relevant Elected Members/officers.

11. Customer Feedback Team

12. Office of the Children's Commissioner Care Monitor and Other Information

13. New Rights for Young Carers - Changes to the Care Act and Children Act Explained