

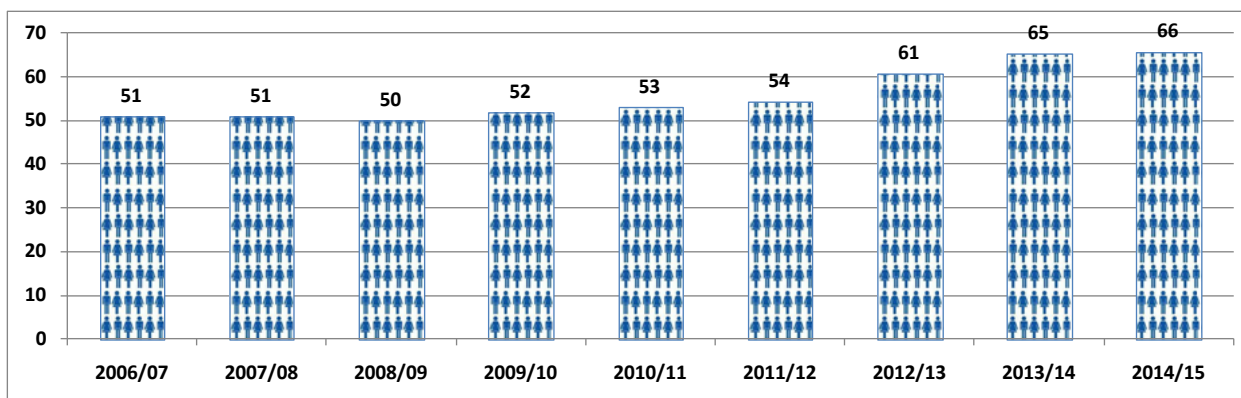
CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, 31ST DECEMBER 2014

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 December 2014, there are **1,611** 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. Performance improved in December and is the lowest since August.
- There are **more** children looked after in Lancashire than in England where 60 out of 10,000 are currently looked after and than in Lancashire's statistical neighbours (62 out of 10,000).
- There are **less** children looked after in Lancashire than the North West (81 out of 10,000).



COMMENTS:

- ❖ Lancashire's number of children looked after has recently reduced in December after 3 months of increases. There have been 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 less referrals than in previous years, although more contacts.
- A referral is information received regarding a child that is deemed to require social care involvement. A contact is information received that doesn't lead to a referral for a child.
- The social work teams have moved from initial and core assessments to a new single assessment from 1st April 2014.



	Previous Performance				Current Performance
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (Apr – Dec)
Contacts <i>per month</i>	998	1284	1525	750	1313
Referrals <i>per month</i>	1389	1175	1370	1679	876
Initial Assessments	10071	9891	11288	11865	--
Core Assessments	4246	5019	5901	5724	--
Single Assessment <i>per month</i>	--	--	--	--	946

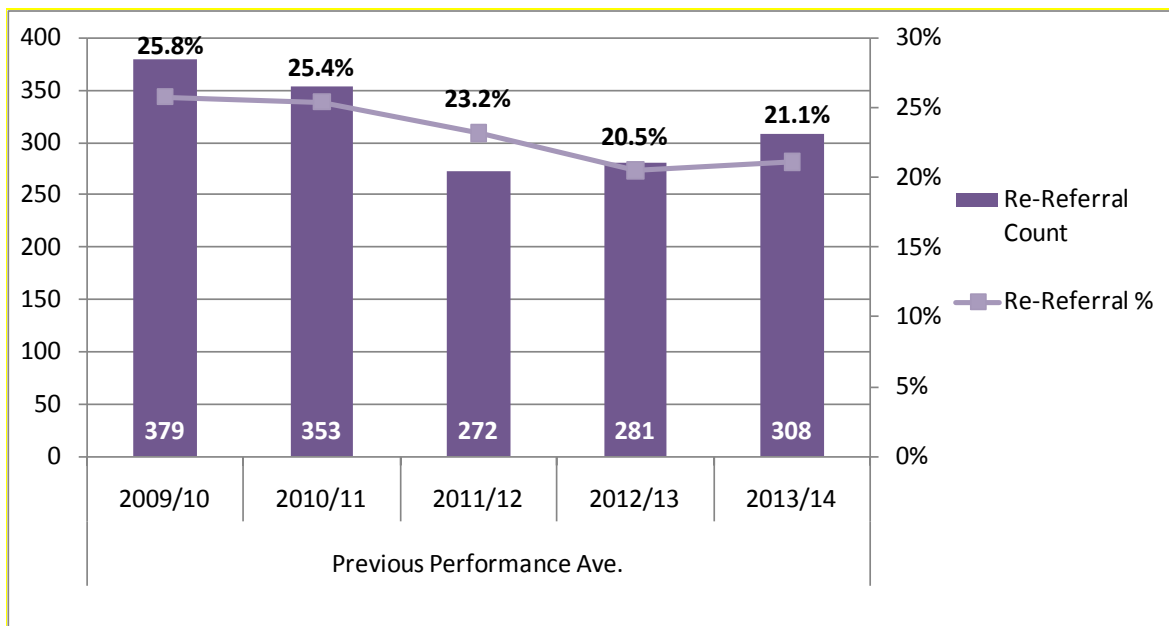
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014, contacts were counted differently hence the number of contacts are not comparable to previous years. Monthly contacts seem very high as all contacts based on open cases are also included, which wasn't previously the case.
- ❖ From 1st April 2014 initial and core assessments were discontinued and the new single assessment was introduced. The first 9 months of data show an average of 946 assessments being started 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:

- ❖ The re-referral rate has been calculated differently since LCS went live.
- ❖ The re-referrals rate for referrals that lead to a single assessment is 15% as at the end of December 2014, a decrease on previous months.
- ❖ Re-referral rates have stayed below 20% for the past 7 months.

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 for December 2014 shows that less than **6** out of 100 children looked after 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 after had to move twice or more during the year.

Previous Performance		Current Performance	Target	Performance Direction?
2012/13	2013/14	2014/15		
8.7%	9.2%	5.4%	9.5%	
↘	↗	↘	✓	

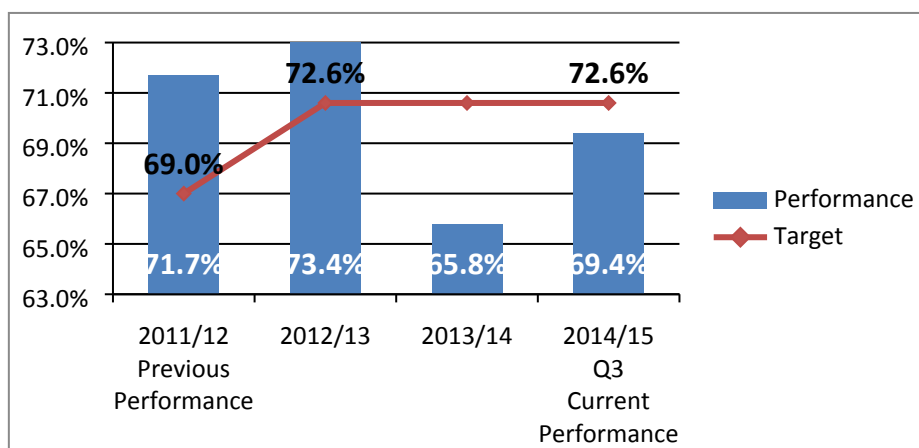
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Young people are happy that the number has reduced but feel that placements could be better researched to suit the needs of the young person which may reduce moves.

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 at least two years in their current placement.
- December 2014 information shows that **69** out of 100 children looked are in a long and stable placement, which is good performance, but below our target.
- Current performance is above last year's performance (66 out of 100).



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.
- ❖ However, recently performance has declined slightly and remains below the target of 72.6%.

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	2014/15 Q2
Lancashire CLA missing	355	62	49
Number CLA from other LAs missing	355	101	111
Other Children known to Lancashire CSC	408	232	187
Other Children Missing	1338	276	253
Children Missing with Lancashire boundaries	2456	671	600

COMMENT:

- ❖ In Lancashire, around **3** out of 100 children looked after went missing during quarter two (July to September 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, however are worried about those individuals that do actually go missing.
- ❖ Q3 info will be available for the next meeting.

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.
- ❖ The young people were shocked at these statistics and suggested the following reasons as to why this may be:
 - CLA are pulled out of lessons by social workers. Meetings may also run over and as such CLA are missing too much time from their lessons. One young person missed an exam due to this and did not receive an apology which upset them.
 - The young people suggested that if staff have to visit them whilst in school, to plan better in terms of meeting the young person on a break or at lunch time. It was also suggested that it may better suit the young person better to be removed from certain lessons if they are confident or feel that they're ahead within the lesson.
- ❖ *An update on performance for 2013/14 will be provided in the next report.*











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 possible in school. There are two sessions possible

each school day; a morning session and an afternoon session. If a child is absent for a lesson in either they are deemed as absent.

	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%	
					

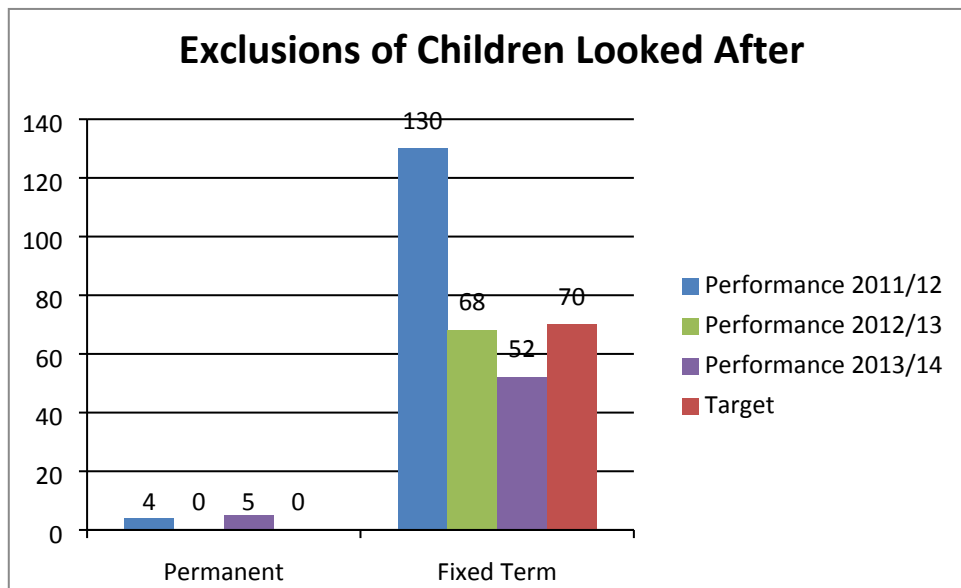
COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Young people believe CLA could be marked as absent from a lesson if they are attending a CLA meeting instead, which is not necessarily the young person's fault. If the young person does not attend for the morning/afternoon, this would be classed as an absent, but potentially authorised, session.
- ❖ Young people feel that 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 talking to.
- ❖ 2013/14 information is currently being prepared and will be included within the next report.

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 5 permanent exclusions of children looked after, an increase from 0 the previous year.
- In the last year there were 52 fixed term exclusions of children looked after, down from 68 the previous year – both lower than the target of 70, which is good!
- The number of fixed term exclusions has fallen again and is well within the targets set by the Corporate Parenting Board. However, there were a number of permanent exclusions within the last year which means, unlike last year, the target of zero permanent exclusions has not been met.



COMMENTS:

- ❖ 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 December 2014.
- Just over **2** out of **100** children looked after are involved with the youth offending teams, while **1** out of **1000** children and young people are involved with youth offending teams.
- Children looked after are fifteen times more likely to be involved with youth offending teams.

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

- **70** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date health assessment (December 2014)
- This is a lower level of up-to-date health assessments than in the previous year.
- **79** out of 100 children looked after have an up-to-date dental assessment (December 2014)
- This is a slightly 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.
- ❖ Lancashire is currently focusing on improving the timeliness of health assessments in partnership with health colleagues.



- ❖ 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. Young people feel health assessments should be different for each individual. Also, if a young person has a check up at the doctors, this should be counted as a health assessment.
- ❖ Young people also feel that health assessments need to be confidential as in the past some LINX members have had foster carers in the assessments which can be uncomfortable when they are being asked personal questions.

ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE

ADOPTION ORDERS

- **227** children looked after have been adopted over the last 3 years.
- The number of adoptions increased to **83** children looked after being adopted in 2013/14, higher than in previous years.
- Provisional figures shows that **104** children looked after were adopted in the first 9 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; 134 in the year to date (2014/15) 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.
- ❖ Performance as at the end of September 2014 was 64.3%

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 **86** out of 100 young people aged 16-24 are in education, training or employment (Sep 2014)

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.
- ❖ Performance as at the end of September 2014 shows **32** out of 100 care leavers were in education, training or employment on their 19th birthday which was a further drop from end of June figure of **41** out of 100.
- ❖ Young people feel that this isn't good enough and more young people should be in education or training
- ❖ Young people feel that individuals, due to potentially poor school grades, need more apprenticeships and volunteering schemes to be accessible. Funding could be used as an early intervention to help young people with grades in the form of extra tuition.
- ❖ Young people feel more help could be given to help young people to find courses and employment. Furthermore, available funds in the form of college bursaries should be more accessible as not everyone is aware of what they are entitled to financially.

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.
- Of these 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.
- In 2013/14 there were 36 care leavers studying at university including 13 first year students.
- In 2014/15 there are 44 care leavers studying at university, including 9 first year students.



COMMENTS:

- ❖ There is a good level of Care Leavers at University in each of the last three 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.
- ❖ Young people believe other CLA are not aware of the support and funding available to them. The extra provisions that are available could support more young people through university.
- ❖ Currently, the staying put policy applies to Lancashire "in-house" foster carers but discussions are encouraged to occur surrounding those looked after children placed with independent fostering agencies regarding the possibility of staying put.
- ❖ Young people also suggested that leaving care and starting university occurs at the same time and this can be a stressful time for the young people involved. Individuals may also be put off the idea of attending university as they may be worried about not having anywhere to live during the holidays.
- ❖ Information for those attending university in 2014/15 is provisional and is subject to change.