

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd April, 2015 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

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 (Chair)	- Lancashire County Council
Jane Simpson	- representing Foster Carers
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Bob Stott	- Director of Children's Services
Joanna Hunt	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Lynsey Evans	- Fostering Forum
Tony Morrissey	- Deputy Director, Children's Services
Mark	- LINX Representative
Kat	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers

Other Attendees

Ajay Sethi	- Traded Services (Start Well)
Anna Howarth	- CLA Health Services

Hannah Peake
Josh Mynott (Clerk)

- Safeguarding and Inspection Team
- Democratic Services

1. Introductions and Apologies

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were noted from County Councillor Lorraine Beavers, Diane Booth and Sam Gorton.

It was noted that the lead Director responsibility for the Board would be passing from Bob Stott to Tony Morrissey. Bob thanked the Board for the experience of being the lead Director for two years and Tony said he was looking forward to continuing the excellent work that had already been done.

3. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 5 February 2015

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

4. What our Elected Members have been doing

The County Councillors present highlighted a number of areas of their recent work.

Councillor Henig reported on a visit to a prison in Lancashire and a very good scheme in place where a father in prison is videoed reading a book for their children. The video is then sent, along with the book, to the children so they can follow it while their father reads it.

Councillor Henig also advised that the report of the Lancashire Fairness Commission had now been completed, and suggested that the young people present might be interested to read it.

She also reported that the Lancashire Book of the year award shortlist had now been announced. This was a book award chosen entirely by young people, and the winner would be announced at a ceremony in June. She had also attended a drama event at the Grand Theatre in Lancaster organised by "Northern beat", which presented dramas for young people around the theme "Pride and prejudices".

Several Councillors spoke about their involvement in the election campaign.

Councillor Prynn advised that she had reported her CSE concerns to the LSCB and police. She had not yet received a response from the Police, and will be following that up to make sure the concerns have been received.

Councillor Prynn had also had direct approaches from young people on two issues – the use of restraint and issue on leaving care. She had requested the Young Inspectors to look into the first and will be looking into the second issue further to see what support mechanisms could be put in place. It was felt that the

approaches made were a positive sign that young people would approach councillors when they had a problem.

The Education Scrutiny Committee had met and considered the relatively poor performance of Children Looked After at school, particularly at GCSE. Councillor Prynne attended the committee meeting to put forward her concerns and explain why attainment may be low. She stressed how everyone must have high expectations of our children looked after and do everything possible to raise their attainment. CC Prynne suggested a number of recommendations. These were accepted by the Committee and have now been passed to relevant officers.

Councillor Prynne said that she had been considering ways to enhance the work of the Board and to help it gain better recognition. She suggested that a new logo for the Board might help, along with possibly a new "mission statement" to explain what it did. Councillor Prynne asked Hannah Peake and LINX to give this some thought. Cllr Prynne also mentioned that she would contact Democratic Services and Governance Officers to check the legalities of any possible changes.

Amongst other activities, Councillor Prynne stated that she was in the process of organising a meeting with a representative of UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire) about working with Children Looked After and has attended a conference at which people from Cambridge University talked about a programme they are running to get more Children Looked After into university. Councillor Prynne has also been looking at innovative work carried out elsewhere in relation to careers advice.

Finally, Councillor Prynne reported that a pilot scheme was being looked into in order to give all CLAs an email address that they would carry with them throughout their time in care and beyond. It was hoped that this would help to make sure that the Council was able to keep in touch with care leavers.

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

LINX updated the board on their recent activities. A number of presentations were shown, attached to these notes, on tackling negative stereotypes of children looked after, an update on the work of the young inspectors and the PROUD awards.

Young Inspector visits have taken place in the following residential homes and independent fostering agencies:

- Crestmoor (in house residential home)
- Park View (Agency Residential home in East Lancashire belonging to Hexagon Care)
- Frances House (agency residential home in East Lancashire)
- Blue Potts (agency residential home in North Lancashire belonging to Partners in Care)
- Fostering Solutions (Independent Fostering Agency)

Two short films were also shown, one on stereotyping children in care, the other aimed at helping health services make sure they are meeting the needs of children in care. It was acknowledged that a considerable amount of activities had been undertaken and LINX were thanked for their work.

LINX also provided feedback on the Performance report. The comments were noted and would be taken up by the relevant officers for further action.

6. PROUD Event Evaluation

The Board considered the recent PROUD event. It was confirmed that the event had been a success, with nominations from a wide range of sources. For the future, it was noted that the Board would need to access funding to support any future PROUD events. If funding was accessed then consideration would be given to a different event being held for younger children, to make sure that there was an appropriate way of celebrating the achievements of 3-5 year olds.

In addition, it was identified that there were no nominations from the health sector, and that some work could take place to target that area in future.

7. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Board noted the update on the CSE/Curriculum meeting held in January 2015. It was confirmed that currently around a quarter of secondary schools had participated in the breakfast briefings. It was confirmed that further updates would be presented in future.

8. Virtual Schools and Governance

The new headteacher for Vulnerable and Looked After Children, Audrey Swann, was introduced to the Board and gave a brief outline of the work of the Virtual School.

9. Start Well Structure

Ajay Sethi, the new Head of Service for Traded Services in the Start Well service area was introduced to the Board, and briefly outlined his responsibilities.

10. Care Leavers Website

It was reported that the new Care Leavers website was now live www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone, and that a demonstration would be given at the next meeting

11. Any Other Business

A new project, "Care to be Different", aimed at providing intensive support to Care Leavers, was underway, and LINX expressed an interest in being involved in further discussions about this.

The Chair handed out a number of "Celebrate Youth" awards to the LINX representatives present.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would be at 6pm on Thursday 18 June 2015 in Cabinet Room C (the Duke of Lancaster Room), County Hall.