

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 8th September, 2016 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present: Members

County Councillor Sue Pryn (Chair)	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
Councillor Bernard Dawson	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine Lynsey Evans	- representing Adoption - Fostering Forum
Kat	- LINX Representative
Sam R	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Sam W	- LINX Representative
Paige	- LINX Representative
Mary-Beth	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative
Michelle	- LINX Representative
Bradley	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Ionie Calderbank	- Barnardos
Susan Towers	- Agency - Residential
Angela Epps	- Agency Fostering

Other Attendees

Kirsty Clarke	- Lancashire Children's Rights Society
Andy Smith	- Children's Social Services, LCC
Maria Lewis	- Youth Offending Team, LCC
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services, LCC
Superintendent Andrea Barrow	- Lancashire Constabulary

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Lord and Beavers, Dr Nicola Bamford, Diane Booth, Tony Morrissey, Annette McNeil, Debbie Duffell, Mark Twiname, Mia Leyland and Audrey Swann.

2. Notes of the Meetings and Matters Arising from 16 June 2016 and 4 August 2016

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

3. What our Elected Members have been doing (15 mins)

CC Prynne

CC Prynne and CC Brown had carried out a Reg 22 visit recently. Following this, there had been some quite negative meetings with regards the use of CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Service) between Mental Health Officers and Senior Officers from LCC. There is a Pan Lancashire initiative to provide help for all mental health issues for young people.

There is a Care of the Most Vulnerable Workshop to be held on 27 September 2016. If any County Councillors wishes to attend, then let CC Prynne know. Key professionals across Lancashire will be attending. CC Prynne will be feeding in with regards to needing more therapies and support in residential settings, which is more than what CAMHS are offering.

Debbie Ross reported that Health are also expanding the number of therapies offered for vulnerable young people and that self-referrals are now accepted from young people.

CC Prynne queried an Activity Day that she had heard about, and was disappointed that the Board had not been informed about it. Following this it was requested that Sam Gorton source more information and let CC Prynne know the details.

Action: Sam Gorton to follow up further with Tony Morrissey/Georgine Lee.

Kate Baggaley confirmed that the Council Tax exemption letter is now finalised and ready to be sent to the District Councils.

CC Brown

Reported that the Reg 22 visit he carried out with CC Prynne was very interesting and that he was continuing to work on issues around mental health.

CC Brindle

Reported back with regards the follow up on Housing with Burnley Borough Council. There was no specific training given on dealing with care leavers, it was on the job training. CC Brindle felt that this was not satisfactory and also that there was no specific leaflet or guidance on leaving care for young people. This was a big gap that needs looking at.

Action: Officers are producing a leaving care pack which will be presented to the Board.

4. LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) (60 mins)

In Care out of Trouble Report

LINX presented the attached PowerPoint which outlined their response to the recommendations at Appendix One in the Report as requested by the CPB at the meeting on 16 June 2016. Following on from the slide which shows what LINX wanted, their request was that a Police Representative be on the Board. It was noted that there was a Co-opted Member Police role in the Terms of Reference, however, in the past when this had been discussed the young people requested that they did not feel comfortable with a Police presence, so the Board welcomed that they would now like Police representation at the meetings in future.

Action: Sam Gorton to liaise with Superintendent Andrea Barrow to find a Police Representative to attend future meetings.

LINX then led with an activity (attached), where the Board worked in groups and were presented with scenarios, and then each scenario was added to which changed the opinions of the outcomes and what led to them. The groups were asked how they would deal with the different issues (as attached). The scenarios were based on experiences young people had had in care in Lancashire. Kate reported that young people had stated they had not experienced any discriminations from the Police because they were in care and that they reported positive experiences when dealing with the Police. The Board and Superintendent Andrea Barrow welcomed the positive comments made by the young people.

What LINX have been doing

LINX gave a detailed account of what they had been doing since 4 August 2016. Details can be found on the Powerpoint attached.

Kate reported that LINX had been working really hard with the Fostering Service and what they had been doing was detailed in the Bingo game that the Board played and is attached.

Feedback on CPB Report

Young people raised a number of concerns with regards the Performance Report, and it was requested that Sam contact Chris Greenwood who provides the report to address the issues raised.

Action: Sam to send the Performance Report to Chris Greenwood to address the concerns raised by LINX and for Chris to feedback to LINX.

Andy Smith, Children's Social Care addressed the query around why the Contact Centre had received more contacts though less referrals had been made. He stated contacts and referrals are the same, they are both dealt with in the same way. There are around 30,000+ contacts a year with around 1000 going through to Social Workers. Around 3000 a month should be dealt with at the early help stage which is dealt with by MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub).

Andy also gave some feedback from the recent Ofsted Monitoring visit. Six cases had been sampled from Section 47 and Care Leavers and the findings were that significant progress was being made and the processes that are in place are on the right track, however there is still room for improvement, but no children have been left at risk.

The children missing data is inconsistent and the reason behind this is that the Police data does not match with the Children's Social Care data.

The Chair commented that it was really pleasing that the KS4 results had increased from the previous year.

Five looked after young people had been placed in either young offender institutions or secure units. Maria Lewis agreed to follow this up and find out further information.

Action: Maria Lewis to follow this up and report back to CC Pryn.

ITV Fixers – Leaflet

Brad and Sam had been involved with creating a leaflet for care leavers called Out of Care and Going it Alone. The leaflet can be found [here](#).

The young people were thanked for their detailed reports and continuing hard work.

5. In Care Out of Trouble Report (30 mins)

Superintendent Andrea Barrow, Lancashire Constabulary and Robert Ruston, Victims Commissioning and Partnerships Manager, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) were welcomed to the meeting.

Robert spoke about the role of the OPCC and explained that they were the body that oversees the Police. Currently they are focussing on restorative justice and developing it in homes and are very keen to look at and support it in residential units across Lancashire.

Maria Lewis, Youth Offending Team, LCC informed the Board that the YOT Team have restorative justice work planned too, so the team will contact Robert and make the links.

Action: Maria Lewis to contact Robert Ruston about collaborative work around restorative justice.

Superintendent Andrea Barrow then gave a PowerPoint presentation (as attached) as to what Lancashire Constabulary is doing around Early Action and Public Service Lancashire Development.

Early Action – Prevention is the Forces way of delivering Neighbourhood policing in the future.

Looking at deep problem solving and asking the question WHY-

Why the individual has escalated to crisis?

Why have previous cries for help not lead to a sustainable solution?

Why should we as Police be interested in incidents and problems that are not crime related?

This is why Early Action is so important – 48% classed as Early Action when the problem has reached crisis and the police are called. Case studies show that many of the incidents could have been prevented with Early Action. Only 19% of incidents are crime related demand on Police.

Lancashire Police Force are leading the way in working in conjunction with other services and acting as leads for individuals and then working with the family and identifying what help is needed, so the individual and family are not seeing lots of different people over the same issues.

Further funding has been applied for to help put interventions in place.

Police do not complete Common Assessment Frameworks (CAF's) as a matter of course, but they do act as Lead Professionals for hundreds of others. As part of the Integrated Team in Preston they are looking at Police instigating a CAF, looking at a joint case management system and looking at using Liquid Logic. A CAF would be built into that and used as an assessment tool.

Superintendent Barrow also informed the Board that they are doing preventative work with other agencies around mental health issues. The Board agreed that they would like to be a part of this initiative going forward. Superintendent Barrow welcomed input on identifying vulnerable people on this from CPB and foster carers would also be a good source too.

Action: The Board were asked to let Sam Gorton know if anybody would like to be involved and that Sam would pass details on to Superintendent Barrow.

It was noted that joined up working from Service 6, LCC would be very useful especially in helping people who have been released from prison.

Action: Sam to pass contact details of Service 6 to Superintendent Andrea Barrow.

Robert Ruston then informed the Board that the OPCC are incredibly supportive around early intervention work and this is detailed in Lancashire's Police and Crime Plan [Report](#) and that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) sees early action as a main priority.

In 2013 a Triage Programme was funded by the OPCC which was committed to reducing the number of young people entering into the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

A key piece of work is Positive Together which is community based activities which target the most vulnerable and is set up to prevent young people from entering the CJS. They work with the Community for six months with a view to them taking it forward after that.

With regards to restorative justice work is being carried out with Schools and the Youth Offending Team to look at developing this further.

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Campaign has been funded by the OPCC and is keen to keep this high profile and continue to raise awareness around it. A conference will be held in CSE week and also another event is planned for parents/carers with children with learning difficulties around grooming.

Another key piece of work is around all support services for victims of crime. A recent development is that there is now a service specifically for young people and this is called NEST Lancashire and is focusing on CSE and Bullying during the autumn.

The PCC is somebody who is elected by the public and has a key role and sets the budget for the Police from the funding given from Central Government and Council Tax from the County. The PCC is the only person who can appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable and holds the Police to account after setting out key things for them to do and ensures they are carrying them out.

CC Prynne thanked Superintendent Barrow and Robert Ruston on behalf of the Board for their attendance and informative presentations.

6. IRO Annual Report (15 mins)

Andy Smith, Children's Social Care presented the IRO Annual Report. Key facts from the report were presented in the Powerpoint attached.

Following the Ofsted Inspection the number of IROs was increased from 30 FTE to 45 FTE. Caseloads were extremely high (around 130) and the focus has been to reduce caseloads which has happened. The current number as of today of children looked after is 1,754 which has increased since March 2016 where the number was 1,674.

Children with child protection plans was also increasing and from March 2016 there were 1,443 children to the number today which is 1,746.

As can be seen, figures are increasing, however, with the increase in staff, this has enabled IRO's to manage and provide good practice. Problem resolution within the service was identified as a positive way for IRO challenge to improve outcomes.

The Board asked if there could be some form of a problem resolution specifically for Care Leavers so they are able to escalate and resolve any of their concerns and Andy agreed to take this forward.

Action: Andy Smith to take forward the recommendation of a problem resolution service for Care Leavers and report back to the Board on this recommendation.

Kirsty Clarke commented that the Advocacy Service provided by Children's Rights was now available up to the age of 21 years old, and that this service had a good relationship with IROs.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 1 December 2016 at 6.00pm (refreshments served from 5.30pm) in the Henry Bollinbroke Room – Cabinet Room 'D', County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

9. Care Leavers Guide - An Update Report

This item was for information only. Any queries arising from this, please email hannah.peake@lancashire.gov.uk.