

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd December, 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 Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Sue Prynne	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Tony Morrissey	- Deputy Director, Children's Services
Mark	- LINX Representative
Sam	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Kris	- LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Debbie Ross	- Designated Nurse for CLA, representing CCG
Diane Booth	- Children's Social Care
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers
Rebecca Wilkinson	- Barnardos

**Other Attendees**

Sally Allen	- Safeguarding Manager
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services, LCC
Joanna Hunt	- Lancashire Children's Rights Service
Amanda Jakeman	- Department of Work and Pensions
Matthew	- POWAR Representative
Annette McNeil	- Policy, Information and Commissioning Service
Lesley Sheridan	- Quality and Review Manager

## **1. Introductions and Apologies**

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillor Lorraine Beavers, Jane Simpson and Mark Twiname.

County Councillor (CC) Prynne (Chair) would be arriving later due to earlier meeting commitments and Tony Morrissey, Deputy Director for Children's Services would Chair the meeting until her arrival.

County Councillor Tomlinson (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools) was also in attendance until 6.30pm, this was due to his attendance at Cabinet Youth Council at that time. It was noted that future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) and Youth Council would not be held on the same night to avoid this clash and dates already set have determined this.

## **2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 10 September 2015**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

Actions from the Care Leavers issues around housing has been followed up by Moya McKinney and discussions with care leavers have taken place.

Tony Morrissey also reported that he had spoken to Anne-Marie Morgan around Future Horizons and publicising this to all age appropriate CLA in-house and in agency placements.

## **3. Ofsted Inspection**

Tony Morrissey spoke to this item and began by offering an unreserved apology, especially to the CLA/Care Leavers on the "Inadequate" outcome of the recent Ofsted report that the Authority has received. He stated categorically that this "will get better" and as detailed in the PowerPoint attached, outlined actions that have been put in place to improve and reassure the young people, that the Authority is working together with outside agencies and Ofsted to make the necessary improvements.

Sadly, when Ofsted arrived there were three child deaths who were all Children in Need cases and further investigation is ongoing to see if these could have been prevented. Ofsted looked at 250 cases over the four week inspection.

Ofsted have issued 17 recommendations which covers a number of areas and again, these are detailed in the PowerPoint attached.

Tony stated that they were surprised by the judgement of inadequate, however they knew some areas were challenging and there were issues around the number of Newly Qualified Social Workers and overall caseloads for Social Workers and that the LiquidLogic system was causing significant issues also. Plans are now in place to rectify these problems.

CC Tomlinson said that the issue around data was that staff were working around it and not with it, which meant that data given was inaccurate especially around PEPs. He felt that the scale of the issues around the system was a shock as other Authorities were using it and we need to ensure that it works for Lancashire and gives the accurate data that is required and that staff are fully trained and able to input what is necessary.

Another outcome following the inspection is that every Care Leaver will be given an information pack which includes information on their entitlements and the IROs will follow this up and speak with them about it, and ensure that they understand what they have been given. This will be around housing, benefits, employment and the help of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is invaluable in helping Care Leavers to ensure they get what they are entitled to and also working closely with the Borough Councils on Housing. This was something that was discussed at the previous CPB.

It was noted that no major concerns were identified in respect to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) other than improving data and that positive work with partners and the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) was ongoing. Monitoring and raising awareness around CSE will continue.

The LSCB was also inspected at the same time and they received a judgement of good.

Monthly monitoring meetings are now taking place with the Authority and the Department for Education (DfE) who will ensure that we are working towards the outcomes that are required to improve the services given to children and young people of Lancashire.

Tony re-iterated that with the support and challenge of elected members, partners and children and young people we will ensure services to children and young people are good and enabling better outcomes.

Tony answered any questions.

Tony urged all to read the report, and a link to it can be found [here](#).

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

Matthew from the POWAR Group, attended to give feedback on what CAFCASS – Family Justice Young Person's Board is and his involvement with it.

The Family Justice Young Person's Board supports the work of the Family Justice Board by enabling young people to have a direct say in the way in which services for children and young people are run. The group is made up of around 40 children and young people who have been through who have been through the family justice system or who have an interest in children's rights and the family courts. Matthew has been a member of this group for just over 12 months and has taken part in several meetings and court visits.

The meetings take part in either the national office in London or York and they are around every 2 months. The meetings are very interactive, with different activities happening throughout them. They talk about different subjects and themes in each meeting, in a range of group activities, workshops and games.

As the contract for the court visits was only 12 months these have stopped, but while it was running they happened all over the country. The Young Person's Board looked around several courts to see if they were young people friendly in their eyes. They looked to see if they had family rooms, what they contained, if they had cheap and close by cafes or shops for the young people and much more. The ones Matthew attended were good, with one having a day care centre for some younger siblings if they did not understand what was going on around them. They use feedback sheets as they go around and the visits were made up of around 3 or 4 young people. They gave feedback sheets which had their comments on and this was passed back to the staff member at CAFCASS.

Matthew said he enjoyed being part of this group because it was fun, got to visit and see new places and met a range of new people with similar interests. They have taught him lots of different skills such as public speaking, and since then he has spoken to groups of people around three or four times and this is something he could not have done if they had not of helped him.

Matthew confirmed they do follow up on actions/recommendations.

Matthew was thanked for his presentation.

LINX then gave an update on all the many varied activities and meetings they had been involved in since the last CPB meeting. These can be found on the presentation attached.

The young people gave further feedback on their Takeover of the BBC and Sam appeared on TV and the clip was shown. They all had so much fun and everybody was really proud of them and a massive well done was given!

Mark gave further insight into his trip to Geneva to the United Nations Conference to present the 'See it, Say it, Change it' report.

Feedback from the Young Inspectors was given and the PowerPoint is attached.

The Performance Report had been received and discussed by LINX outside of this meeting and the young people gave their comments as detailed on the PowerPoint attached.

**Action:** Diane Booth agreed to attend a future LINX meeting to discuss further improvements that can be made on performance information that LINX receive from LCC.

LINX had prepared a report on Education and CLA attainments as attached and following this, the Board took part in an activity which was to prepare a paragraph from the CPB to include in a letter from the young people to accompany "Sam's Story" which had been made in particular for Year 7 pupils. The letter was asking Headteachers' to share it with their pupils and wanted it endorsing by the CPB. The film is aimed at Year 7 pupils transitioning into high school – a time when bullying can happen.

A link to Sam's Story which has been produced in partnership with ITV Fixers to tackle negative stereotypes for CLA was shown and can be found [here](#).

A young lady who had recently left care from one of our Residential Homes took part in BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour. A link to the slot is [here](#) and it is approximately 34/35 mins into the programme that Natalie is interviewed. The Board listened to the interview which was a powerful account.

LINX were thanked once again for their hard work and congratulations given for all their achievements over the past year.

## **5. Department of Work and Pensions**

County Councillor Prynne arrived for this item and gave a quick summary of the positive comments that the Board had received from the Ofsted Inspection and from Jo Turton, Chief Executive for Lancashire County Council. Special thanks was given to Catherine, Debbie Ross, Tony Morrissey, Bob Stott and LINX for their involvement with the actual inspection where they were interviewed by the inspectors, some on more than one occasion. The inspectors were really impressed with LINX and how involved they were and that they played an active part on the Board and contributed to half of the agenda for every meeting as well as having a young person led meeting each year. Partnership working with the LSCB was also recognised and that the recent Challenge Panel had taken place with young people from LINX also being involved.

Further work will be required from the Board in scrutinising services and following the Post Inspection Improvement Board meeting more details will be shared.

**Action:** Information on work required from the Board will be given at the next meeting.

Amanda Jakeman from the DWP was welcomed back to the CPB. Amanda informed the Board that since the last meeting she attended, she has started working in partnership with Jane Hylton from New Belongings, where they are upskilling 18 care leavers from the Preston area, giving them an indepth knowledge of Universal Credit. A request has also been made to replicate this in Burnley and this will commence in January. This training will inform a single point of contact (SPOC) for care leavers in these areas and Jane Hylton has all the up-to-date contacts for this.

Information on small/medium businesses which are being offered by BBC Traineeship for 16-24 year olds at Preston College, which is 5 weeks in college and then in a placement close to the young person's home and will help to build up digital skills can be found in the [Touchbase 107](#) (link attached) newsletter that was circulated to the Board following the meeting.

Amanda is going to be talking with Jane about looking at a number of care leavers where Assisted Service Managers will show them the on-line system and give them a package of support around it.

CC Prynne asked for timeframes around this and an action plan so the Board can monitor the training of staff and the knowledge of benefits by care leavers.

**Action:** Amanda agreed to send the Advanced Claim form letters to Sam Gorton so all the forms can be filled in beforehand and then the care leaver can be linked to the correct information when they attend their interview.

Amanda was thanked for her attendance and the Board welcomed the partnership working with the DWP and LCC/New Belongings in helping care leavers understand what they are entitled to and to ensure they receive all the help and support they require.

## **6. IRO Annual Report**

Sally Allen, Safeguarding Manager encouraged all to read the Annual Report that was attached with the agenda, however the Board were asked to be mindful that since the report came out, the Authority has been inspected and further changes have been made to the IRO Service.

Key findings, recommendations and progress so far was outlined in the PowerPoint attached.

Sally outlined that the second CLA Review meeting with the IRO should be plans of permanence. The system has been changed and data from this will be available to the Board after 1 April 2016.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 4 February 2016 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

## **Items for Information Only**

### **9. Fostering Recruitment and Assessment Report**

### **10. Fostering Campaign May/June 2015**

Items 9 and 10 were not discussed at the meeting as these were 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.