

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 4th February, 2016 at 6.00 pm in
Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Present: Members

County Councillor Sue Pryn	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Margaret Brindle	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ian Brown	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Dorothy Lord	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Miss Kim Snape	- Lancashire County Council
Catherine	- representing Adoption
Tony Morrissey	- Deputy Director, Children's Services
Lynsey Evans	- Fostering Forum
Mark	- LINX Representative
Gavin	- LINX Representative
Beth	- LINX Representative
Kristal	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Nicola Bamford	- Designated Doctor and Consultant Paediatrician, representing CCG
Kate Baggaley	- Barnardos
Audrey Swann	- Headteacher, Vulnerable and Looked After Children
Amanda Mansfield	- Independent Reviewing Officers
Susan Towers	- Agency Residential
Angela Epps	- Agency Fostering
Louise Burton	- Chorley, South Ribble, Greater Preston, West Lancs, Preston CCG
Mia Whitbread	- Barnardos

Other Attendees

Angela Esslinger	- Complaints and Appeals Team
Sam Gorton (Clerk)	- Democratic Services
Councillor Michael Green	- South Ribble Borough Council
John Marr	- Contract Management, Care and Public Health

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received and noted from County Councillors Beavers and Gibson, Jane Simpson, Mark Twiname, Debbie Ross, Diane Booth, Debbie Duffell and Annette McNeil.

County Councillor (CC) Sue Prynne welcomed two new representatives for the next 12 months, Susan Towers from Agency Residential and Angela Epps from Agency Fostering.

Councillors Moon and Green, South Ribble Borough Council attended from 6.25pm.

John Marr was also in attendance as CC Prynne wanted to thank him personally for his commitment and support over the last 23 years with LCC and more recently for his involvement with the Board. John will be leaving the Authority in March 2016.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 3 December 2015

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

3. What our Elected Members have been doing

CC Prynne

Care Leavers Email Project

CC Prynne reported that there had been some follow up on the email project that BTLs had been leading on and due to various issues, this had not progressed. Another option could be that young people submitted their email addresses and signed up to a mailing list. A letter could be sent out explaining the purpose and why the Board were wanting to do this and then a group would be set up containing all email addresses. This was to be looked at with Barnardos.

Action: CC Prynne will look into this further.

Regulation 22

CC Prynne had recently undertaken a visit to Lancaster. The report is being finalised.

CC Brown

Had been involved with shortlisting for the PROUD awards. There had been approximately 80 nominations, which had been shortlisted to 28 finalists and 11 winners. The event would be held on 4 March 2016 at Preston North End Football Ground.

CC Brindle

Noted that the response from Cllr John Harbour was very positive and that there was also another project in Burnley, the Elizabeth St Project which was working well. It was a former Council owned building that had been converted into flats to give supported accommodation to vulnerable people when needed.

CC Brindle reported that she would be attending the PROUD awards in her role as Chairman of the County Council. She had also hosted a Young Carers reception for 4-16 year olds, which CC Brindle found really rewarding and thanked Barnardos for arranging the transport for the young carers.

CC Brindle opened Moorside School in Lancaster and attended the Holocaust Memorial Service where three Lancashire Schools were also involved.

Care Leavers

Issues have arisen about how well supported care leavers feel when they leave residential care. There was a need to look at a gradual system to support care leavers when they moved onto independent living. Currently the Staying Put policy was only for young people that are fostered, there was nothing in legislation for those in residential care.

CC Prynne was proposing to put forward a motion for Full Council to lobby Central Government to have Staying Put for all Care Leavers not just for those in fostering placements.

Housing

At the meeting held on 10 September 2015, various District Councillors attended and the Board challenged them to revisit their housing policies and ensure that there were references to Care Leavers within them. An email had subsequently been sent to all District Councils following this up and there had been only one reply which was from Cllr John Harbour, Burnley Borough Council. A copy of his reply was circulated at the meeting and is attached for reference.

Action: CC Prynne agreed to link in with Cllr Harbour and look at best practice and set a precedence, so other Councils would follow.

Cllr Moon gave feedback from South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) on their housing policy, however this had not been updated since 2008. Regular monthly meetings with LCC Leaving Care Team and SRBC appear to have ceased following changes at LCC.

Action: Tony Morrissey to follow up as to why these meetings have ceased.

Cllr Moon stated that she would like to link in with New Belongings scheme.

Action: Tony Morrissey to ask Jane Hylton to contact Cllr Moon.

Cllr Moon raised a comment with regards supported accommodation and rent being charged if a young person is undertaking an apprenticeship programme. There should be a disregard on payment if that is the case to encourage young people to take up an apprenticeship/training programme without having a detrimental effect on their benefits. CC Brindle suggested that hardship disregards could be put into the policy.

Action: CC Moon to report back on the suggestion that hardship disregards should be included in the housing policy.

SRBC could carry this out as a pilot and if successful then it could be rolled out across all the districts and ensure it was included in all Housing Policies.

Community Safety Partnership

CC Prynne highlighted that there was a new act for 'legal highs' from the Government in relation to Psychoactive Substances and all Members of the Board were encouraged to read it.

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

What LINX Have Been Doing

LINX gave feedback from the presentation attached as to what they had been doing since the last meeting. More information regarding the Narey's Review was received, which is a focus group of the Office of the Children's Commissioner and 13 young people attended a meeting on 21 December 2015 where issues raised were fed into a National report on residential care. Issues arising were around more support required for moving into independent living and transport – being transported in vehicles that clearly belonged to a children's home. Once the report had been compiled, LINX would feedback to the Board.

The Children's Rights Alliance for England project had been extended and recommendations should come out in June/July and funding was from Comic Relief.

Young Inspectors

More Young Inspectors training had been undertaken on a residential weekend away. Young people who were trained were helping new recruits undertake training. Kristal, Beth and Gavin are heavily involved with the Inspection programme and enjoyed it as they got to meet new people and young people who lived in the homes they were inspecting, welcomed their involvement also.

Following on from the visits, young people detailed the action points, which they put in a report and sent to staff. A revisit is then undertaken. Currently they have a new visit planned for January and three in March which are all revisits, however, it may not be the same young people revisiting.

CPB Performance Report

The young people stated there were a number of positives from the report attached and that Diane Booth was due to visit a LINX meeting in March to answer any queries on the report.

With regards the statement that CLA are 21 times more likely to be involved with YOT, it would be useful to invite someone along to a Board meeting to see what is being done to reduce this number.

Action: YOT to be invited to a future Board meeting.

Susan Towers commented that they had worked closely with YOT Prevention Officers and felt it had helped in their settings. CC Prynne asked what LCC had in place with the YOT Service for CLA.

Action: Tony Morrissey to follow this up and provide further information to the Board.

Health and Wellbeing

LINX led the Board through an activity, where CC Brown carried lots of boxes with emotions on them whilst answering questions as attached. The aim was to show how young people felt when having to make decisions and carry all the emotional baggage around with them at the same time.

Louise Burton informed the meeting that there was a full redesign in respect to mental health for children and young people. Workshops had been designed and LCC Youth Council had been involved with particular pieces of work and CLA had been a focus. CC Prynne asked that Kate Baggaley and Louise talk outside of the meeting to involve LINX in further work around this.

Fostering and Adoption

The attached activity was taken from Ofsted's State of Nation Report December 2015.

Six members of LINX met with the Adoption and Fostering Panel in October and following that some panellists had changed the way they asked questions in light of what young people had said. A list of questions that young people shared with the panel is attached for perusal.

The results from the flipchart activity on how young people can be involved with fostering and adoption recruitment is also attached.

The Board offered a huge thanks to LINX for the detailed feedback on what they had been involved with since the last meeting.

5. LCC Complaints and Feedback 2014/15

Angela Esslinger spoke to the report that had been circulated with the agenda.

Further information on the Children's Social Care Complaints and Representations system can be found via the following [link](#).

One young person raised a specific issue in relation to timeliness and response to their complaint, which also resulted in a safeguarding issue.

Action: Tony Morrissey to pursue this specific issue further with relevant officers and also ensure that staff in all departments can recognise potential safeguarding incidents and know how to respond to these appropriately.

6. CLA Attainment

Unfortunately, due to the length of other items on the agenda, there was insufficient time left for a detailed report. Therefore it was agreed that this item be moved to the next agenda.

7. Any Other Business

There was no urgent business.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 7 April 2016 at 6.00pm in the Duke of Lancaster Room (formerly Cabinet Room 'C'), County Hall, Preston.