

PROUD CLA Celebration Event



Background

Proud 2016 is the third awards process (preceded by the events in 2015 and 2014) we have hosted to celebrate our children looked after.

The Planning Group

As with previous events the awards process has been coordinated by a group of people who work with looked after children and young people including Barnardos Participation service, social workers, foster carers and elected members. The group also worked in partnership with LINX to organise the event.

The group tweaked the PROUD 'recipe' to make this year's process even better. This included renaming the categories into the following acrostic:

Positive choices and achievements
Responding to the needs of others
Outstanding service to the community
Unique talent
Danny Collins Inspiration award

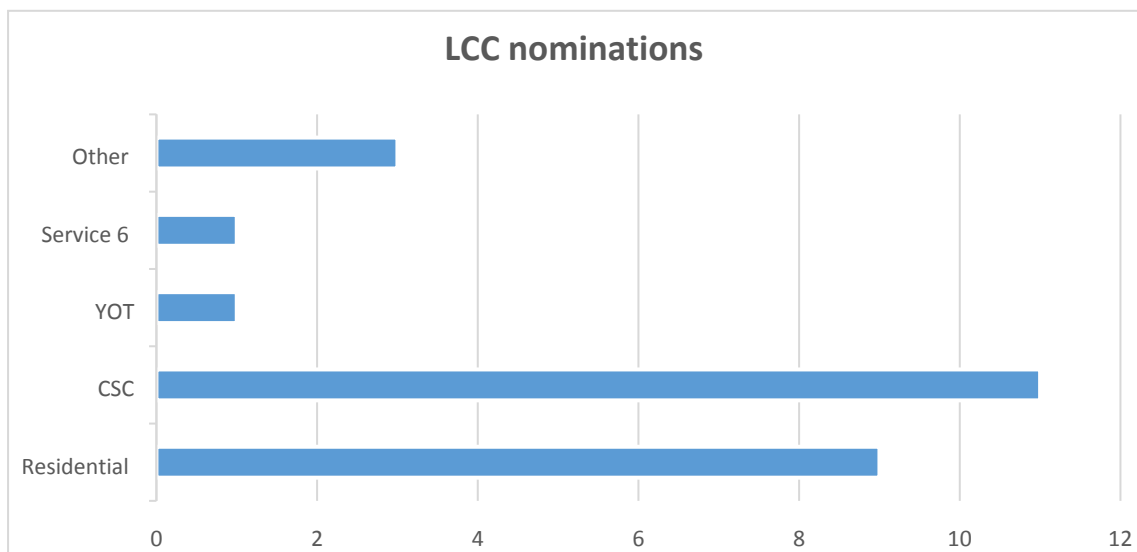
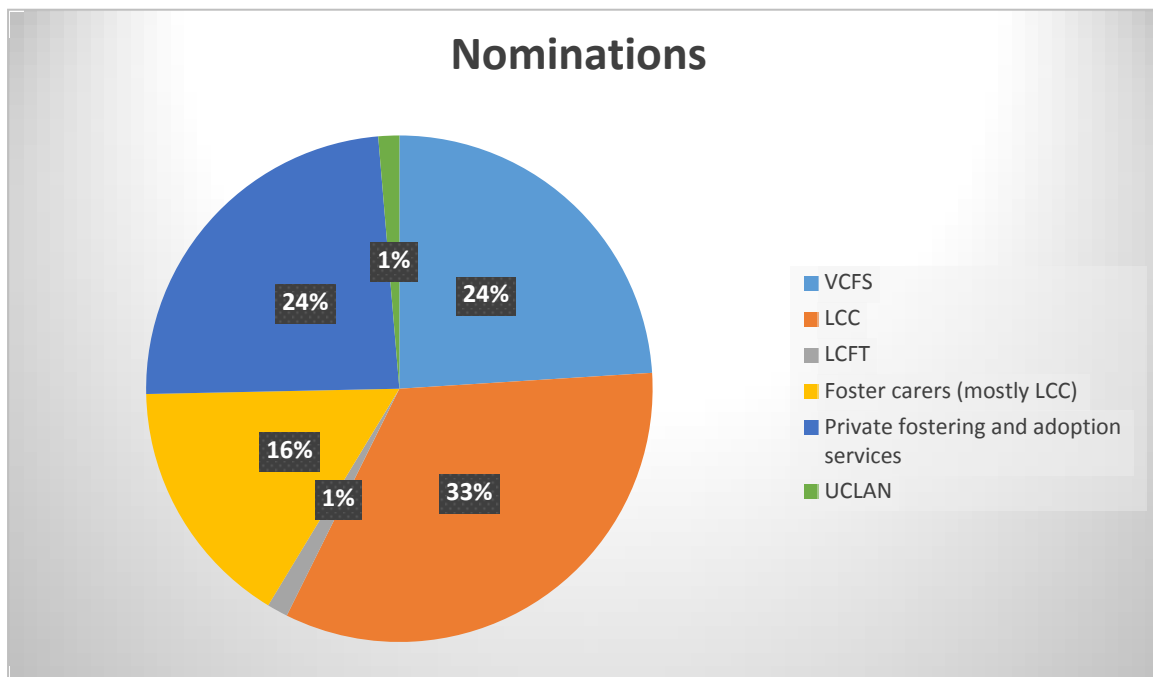
As with previous years we also got ourselves a celebrity to host the event, we planned a truly Oscars style evening and some of our inspirational children and young people elected to speak and award prizes.

Advertising and promoting

We widely publicised the PROUD awards throughout November via the Communications Team including LCC social media and press releases. Internally it was promoted via internal communications and we utilised the TV screens in libraries, schools portal, the Children's Trust website and bulletins and the Youthzone website and facebook pages. We had also planned into our programme an extension to the deadline meaning we finally closed the nominations in early December 2015.

We received approximately 80 nominations which was disappointing as in previous years we had received between 115- 120 nominations (this is of course no reflection on the high calibre of those nominations). The reasons for this may include the ramifications of the Ofsted ruling and the transformation of various services and settings throughout Lancashire.

Analysis of who nominated



Judging

A group of professionals, foster carers and young people got together to judge the categories in January 2016. The challenge of reading, scoring and deciding on finalists and ultimately choosing winners is not for the faint hearted, it's a tough job! However, we were able to select 21 brilliant finalists and 11 amazing winners who were invited to the event on 4 March 2016 in Preston North End.

Special thanks

Particular thanks goes to Jane and Shelly, two of Lancashire's foster carers, for their tireless pursuit of raffle prizes and also for some of the amazing entertainment on the evening (sadly the candyfloss machine triggered the local fire brigade to pay us a visit and condemn its' use but hey ho!).

Thanks also to Karen and Toyah for performing so beautifully at the event. The final thanks goes to LINX, our children in care council, as ever the pleasure is all ours. Many, many, thank yous.