

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

#### Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 16th June, 2021 at 6.00 pm in Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Present: Members**

County Councillor Stephen Clarke	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Joan Burrows	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Andrea Kay	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Scott Smith	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
Liz Donnelly Nelson	- Adoption
Graham Lindley	- Fostering Forum
Georgia	- LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Julie Dawkins	- Fostering Providers
Kirsty Byrne	- East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Audrey Swann	- Vulnerable and Looked After Children, LCC
Andreas Feldhaar	- Permanence Service, LCC
Moya McKinney	- Permanence Service - Leaving Care, LCC
Gina Power	- Permanence Service - Children in Our Care, LCC
Paul McIntyre	- Safeguarding, Inspection and Audit, LCC
Stephen Young	- Corporate Management Team, LCC
Nighat Parveen	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Neil Drummond	- Lancashire Constabulary PPU
Brian Wood	- LINX Participation - Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Maureen Huddleston	- Enhanced CLA Health Teams, UHMB
Suliman Hussain	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Hans Mundry	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC

## **Other Attendees**

Sharon Hubber	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Brendan Lee	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC

### **1. Appointment of Chair**

Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief summary of the Board's remit. All new members were welcomed to the meeting, particularly the new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board.

Edwina also informed that Board that Sharon Hubber had secured a new position as Director of Children Services in Rochdale and asked the Board to join her in congratulating Sharon on her new role and thanked her for the work she had done for the Corporate Parenting Board and Lancashire throughout her time in post.

It was noted that County Councillor Stephen Clarke had been appointed at Full Council to the role of chair of the Corporate Parenting Board for the municipal year 2021/2022.

### **2. Appointment of Deputy Chair**

It was noted that County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe had been appointed at Full Council to the role of deputy chair of the Corporate Parenting Board for the municipal year 2021/2022.

### **3. Introductions and Apologies**

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite, Dr Nicola Bamford, Barbara Bath, Lynsey Evans, Kirsty Clarke and Jo Swords.

The Board noted the following membership changes:

New members:

County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe  
County Councillor Joan Burrows  
County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite  
County Councillor Andrea Kay  
County Councillor Scott Smith  
Graham Lindley, Fostering Forum Representative  
Lynsey Evans, Fostering Forum Representative

Co-opted Non-Voting representatives:

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, LCC  
Moya McKinney, Permanence Service – Leaving Care, LCC  
Gina Power, Permanence Service – Children in Our Care, LCC  
Paul McIntyre, Safeguarding, Inspection and Audit, LCC  
Neil Drummond, Lancashire Constabulary  
Katy Driver, Department for Work and Pensions  
Brian Wood, Child and Family Wellbeing Service (Participation)  
Hans Mundry, Child and Family Wellbeing Service (Participation)  
Suliman Hussain, Child and Family Wellbeing Service (Participation)

Observer:

Jo Swords, National Youth Advocacy Service

The Board also welcomed to this meeting Edwina Grant OBE, Executive Director of Education and Children's Services and County Councillor Cosima Towneley, Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

#### **4. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 16 March 2021**

**Resolved:** That the minutes were agreed as an accurate record with the addition of Maureen Huddleston, Enhanced CLA Health Teams University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay to the attendees and there were no matters arising from them.

#### **5. Membership and Terms of Reference**

Sam Gorton, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council presented the membership and terms of reference of the Board.

Following the presentation, it was agreed that the following amendments should be made:

- Early Help Service, to be changed to Children and Family Wellbeing Service in the Co-opted Membership section.
- There needed to be a stronger reference to children leaving care and transitioning out of care.
- A review date needed to be added for the terms of reference.

**Resolved:** that the comments above be addressed and the revised Terms of Reference be brought back to the Board at its next meeting on 22 July 2021.

## 6. Review and Update of the CPB Strategy 2018-2022 and Corporate Parents Promise 2019

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council outlined to the Board, that following the new Permanence Service that has been established at the beginning of the year, it was timely with the new members of the Board, to revisit the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2022 and the Corporate Parenting Promise 2019 to:

- Ensure it reflects our vision today.
- Agree priorities and actions for the next six months.
- Improve partnership working and to work collaboratively with the principle of permanence at the core.
- Ensure every child and young person looked after and leaving care is provided with a sense of security, continuity, support and stability.
- To review the appropriateness and effectiveness of our priorities and corporate parenting strategy for the future.

The workshop focused on the objectives of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and identified what actions the Board intended to progress to achieve outcomes for each of the objectives. The nine objectives in the strategy are as follows:

- Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our services.
- Children and young people can remain safely at home.
- Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'.
- Children and young people will be supported in their education employment and training.
- Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for.
- The health and wellbeing of our children and young people in care and care leavers will be a priority for Lancashire County Council.
- Children and young people will receive appropriate financial support.
- Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation.
- Children and young people in our care and care leaver achievements are celebrated.

Following the workshop, the facilitators reported back from each of the three groups. Feedback from the break-out sessions, can be found attached to the minutes and this will now form the next part of the Board's work plan going forward and four key priorities for discussion at the next meeting and actions, monitoring and outcomes for those priorities and report back to the Board on their progress at future meetings.

**Resolved:** That feedback from the workshops will be analysed and four key priorities will be identified to take forward as a Board for the next meeting on 22 July 2021.

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business received.

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

Thursday, 22 July 2021 at 1.30pm, via Zoom.



## CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD WORKSHOP 16.06.2021

### Notes and Outcomes



*A summary of the discussions is provided for each Objective discussed during the workshop on 16.06.2021 and grouped in 'themes' under each of the objectives. Details from the Corporate Parenting Strategy are recorded in green, the summary of the discussions is recorded in black font.*

<h1>Objective 1</h1>	<b>Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our services</b>
	<i>'To ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services'.</i>
	<i>'Nothing about me without me'.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Consultation with Children in Care Council (Lynx and POWAR) and Care Leaver Forum to influence changes to the service</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Consultation with as many children as possible to shape the service</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Using children's and young people's ideas and recommendations to shape service</b></li> </ul>	

## **CONSULTATION with children and young people**

- Consult with children and young people about how they want to be connected with the Corporate Parenting Board and how they want to get information about what the Corporate Parenting Board has done.
- Ensure to consult with a wide and broad group of children and young people
- Ensure not only those children and young people who are confident in repressing their views in meetings and forums are heard
- Use a variety of different ways to consult with children and young people, e.g.
  - attend groups where children and young people meet
  - consider the use of Mind of My Own

## **LANGUAGE**

- All attendees to avoid jargon and ensure information is fully understood by children and young people
- All reports, presentations etc. to be written in a way that ensures children and young people fully understand the information
- Reports etc to be 'translated' into better language where this has not been possible

## **INSIGHT AND AWARENESS**

- The board to be provided with young people's stories/testimonies

## **PREPARATION AND SUPPORT for children and young people**

- Regular meetings for children and young people to be set up to provide support, build confidence and strengthen their involvement with the Corporate Parenting Board
- Corporate Parenting Board meetings to be more children and young people friendly, e.g.
  - Face to face meetings instead of virtual (or hybrid meetings)
  - Support to children and young people throughout the meeting



- Have a pre-meeting for young people to meet some of the board members before the full board meeting
- Offer a buddy

**PARTICIPATION**

- Children and young people to be involved in setting agenda items
- Children and young people to co-chair the board
- Children and young to be supported and empowered to challenge the board and professionals

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND FEEDBACK**

- Develop a newsletter from the Corporate Parenting Board in the style 'you said – we did'
- Send 'thank you' messages/cards to young people for their contributions

<h1 style="color: #00A651; margin: 0;">Objective 3</h1>	<p style="color: #00A651; margin: 0;"><b>Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'</b></p>
	<p style="color: #00A651; margin: 0;"><i>'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.</i></p>
<p style="color: #00A651; margin: 0;">➤ <b>Lancashire has a Local Offer for Care Leavers</b></p>	

**IMPROVING THE LOCAL OFFER**

- Exploring free prescriptions for care leavers
- Exploring free access to leisure centres for care leavers
- Exploring free travel for care leavers across Lancashire
- Exploring the 'Plus 1 Scheme' to enable care leavers to do things with a family member or friend

**IMPROVING PRESENTATION OF THE LOCAL OFFER**

- Explore different formats in how to share the local offer with young people

# Objective 4

**Children and young people will be supported in their education, employment and training**

*'To close the achievement gap between those children and young people that the local authority cares for and those that are cared for by their own families'.*

- **Provide additional support for children in care and leaving care to succeed in EET**
- **Ensure access to a range of education settings**
- **Achieve success and for all our children to be their best**
- **Virtual School provides support and challenge to schools, education providers, social work teams and other key partners**
- **Employment Support Team offers steps into employment, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and work experiences for our young people 14-25**
- **Aim to increase opportunities for the children we care for across Lancashire and ensure that opportunities are provided in each locality**

## **REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACT**

- Reducing adverse impact of other areas such as housing and physical/emotional health

## **EDUCATION**

- Aiming high and setting aspirations early at 11/12 years old
- Provide equal opportunities for CLA/CL to combat earlier experiences
- College and university taster sessions/open days

## **APPRENTICESHIPS**

- Approach partner organisations for bespoke offers to care leavers
- Link to other panels/boards to raise broader awareness and offer to care leavers

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- Explore a covenant with the armed forces support care leavers access and support

## **SUPPORT**

- Explore peer/buddy/mentoring support
- Identify opportunities for young people to have new experiences, be inspired, raise their aspirations and try something new
- Identify bridging support from NEET to EET

## MAKING WORK PAY

- Agree how to support young people on zero-hour contracts
- Agree how to support young people in/out of employment/benefits
- Agree what level of income makes work pay

<h1>Objective 5</h1>	<b>Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for</b>
	<i>'To ensure that the children and young people we care for have a range of suitable and appropriate accommodation to meet their immediate and long term needs'.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Our children and young people are encouraged and supported to experience positive social and leisure activities to encourage their wellbeing</b></li><li>➤ <b>Housing providers and District Councils work with LCC to provide enough good quality accommodation for care leavers</b></li><li>➤ <b>CSC familiarise themselves with accommodation options for care leavers to manage their expectations</b></li></ul>	

## CARE AND PLACEMENT PLANNING

- Placement planning to include all partners relevant for the effective planning for that child and young person.
- Children's Social Care to implement the guidance and recommendations from the statutory review or unregulated placements.

## IMPROVING THE OFFER

- LCC and District Councils (each) to set out to young people their placement, accommodation and housing offer for them and their roles and responsibilities.
- The Corporate Parenting Board and District Councils to work together to secure housing provisions for care leavers through the planning application process for new housing developments.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- District Councils provide clear advice to young people about how housing benefit is calculated when living in supported accommodation and earning an income from work.
- District Councils to consider waiving unreasonably rent charges for young people living in supported accommodation and earning an income from work

# Objective 6

The health and wellbeing of our children and young people in care and care leavers will be a priority for Lancashire County Council

*'To improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.*

- Health partners have a significant role in identify, delivering and improving the health of children and young people looked after and leaving care
- CLA nurses liaise with wider health economy to meet health needs best
- Working with ASC to ensure continued support is planned for before young people reach adulthood

## **MONITORING HEALTH OUTCOMES**

- The board to receive health performance data on a regular basis
- Themes to be identified and addressed
- The board to be provided with young people's stories/testimonies
- The board to be provided with additional information for children with disability and special educational needs to improve the understanding of health outcomes for this group

## **ACCESS TO EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVISIONS**

- Improve access, availability and priority for CLA/CL
- Review the current offer of emotional and mental health services in Lancashire and consider whether additional services are needed (e.g. CASHA)

## **IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**

- Identify support to overcome the impact of the pandemic and plans to recover

## **ALTERNATIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 16+**

- Young people 16+ should have the option to be examined by other health professionals instead of only paediatricians as none looked after peers would not be seen by a paediatrician but GP.

<h1>Objective 7</h1>	<b>Children and young people will receive appropriate financial support</b>
	<i>'To ensure that young people have enough money to provide for their needs whilst in care and after they have left care and ensure that they are supported financially to establish their own homes'.</i>
<p>➤ <b>The financial procedure is current, relevant and appropriate to meet the needs of young people due to leave care and for those who have left care</b></p>	

### REVIEWING THE FINANCIAL OFFER TO CARE LEAVERS

- Review amount of setting home allowance
- Review amount of Leaving Care Allowance
- Review level of financial crisis and debt support

### ADDRESS DIGITAL POVERTY

- Reduce the digital divide

<h1>Objective 8</h1>	<b>Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation</b>
	<i>'To ensure that children are protected from harm and exploitation and ensure that they are provided with support to overcome any pull factors that would lead them to being exploited'.</i>
<p>➤ <b>Coordinated response with partner agencies to children and young people most at risk of exploitation, MFH and trafficking</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Joint actions to divert from offending and entering/escalating through the youth justice system</b></p>	

### MONITORING SAFEGUARDING OUTCOMES

- The board to be provided with periodic themed safeguarding/exploitation updates from police and CSC
  - Data
  - Themes

- Current issues and challenges
- Young people's narratives/testimonies
- Ensure consistent pathways and thresholds are applied across the different areas, functions and partners in Lancashire
- The board to be provided with periodic themed criminal justice updates from police and CSC
  - Effectiveness to divert looked after children from the criminal justice system
  - First time entrants
  - Re-offending rate
  - Use of custody
  - Effectiveness of Lancashire Protocol to reduce unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children
- The board be provided with a report on level of training and skills within the workforce of CSC, fostering and residential (internal/external) to recognise, respond and support children and young people at risk of exploitation; ability and skills to implement preventative strategies.
- The board to be provided with a report on the education and awareness raising with young people to reduce the risk of exploitation.
- The board to be provided with a report on the profile of children going missing and a profile of the placements they go missing from to identify push/pull factors and inform sufficiency planning
- Scrutiny of how return home interviews are completed including the young person's choice of who completes this

**EMBED TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE ACROSS ALL SERVICES**

<h1>Objective 9</h1>	<b>Children and young people in our care and care leaver achievements are celebrated</b>
	<i>'To ensure that the children we look after and have looked after, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>PROUD awards</b></li> </ul>	

**CONSULTATION with children and young people**

- Consult with children and young people to identify how they would like to be recognised for their achievements

**RECOGNITION OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Virtual School to explore extending current awards beyond Key Stage 4
- Consider the implementation of a corporate recognition of key educational stages: GCSEs, A-Levels, graduation from college or university

## **RECOGNITION OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Explore the option of a Corporate Parenting Board Award that recognises achievements that are significant to the individual young person (e.g. stop going missing etc.), contributions to the community and individual learning and development from young people's participation in events in addition to the annual Proud Awards

