

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd July, 2021 at 1.30 pm in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom

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 Jeff Couperthwaite	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Scott Smith	- Lancashire County Council
Graham Lindley	- Fostering Forum
Georgia	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Caroline Waldron	- East Lancashire CCG
Helen Hargreaves	- Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group
Andreas Feldhaar	- Permanence Service, LCC
Moya McKinney	- Permanence Service - Leaving Care, LCC
Nighat Parveen	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Neil Drummond	- Lancashire Constabulary PPU
Brian Wood	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Adam Riley	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service
Hans Mundry	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
April Rankin	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service
Jennifer Donnelly	- Lancs 0-19, Virgin Care Ltd
Maureen Huddleston	- Enhanced CLA Health Teams, UHMB

Other Attendees

County Councillor Cosima Towneley	- Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Sharon Hubber	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Brendan Lee	- Children's Social Care, LCC
Kirsty Clarke	- National Youth Advocacy Service
Jane Hylton	- Leaving Care Team, LCC

Ralph Rushworth	- Leaving Care Team, LCC
Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick	- Leaving Care Team, LCC
Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from Bev Woods, Liz Donnelly-Nelson, Lynsey Evans, Julie Dawkins, Dr Nicola Bamford, Gina Power, Paul McIntyre, Stephen Young, Suliman Hussain and Brendan Lee.

The Board noted the following membership changes:

Replacements for this meeting:

Moya McKinney, Lead Officer in place of Brendan Lee, Lancashire County Council
 County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick for County Councillor Andrea Kay, Lancashire County Council
 Caroline Waldron for Kirsty Byrne, East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
 Jennifer Donnelly for Rebecca McGeown, Lancashire 0-19, Virgin Care Ltd

New Members:

Bev Woods is replacing Jackie Hodson as the Residential Provider.

New Co-opted Non-Voting representatives:

April Dawkins, Child and Family Wellbeing Service (Participation)
 Adam Riley, Child and Family Wellbeing Service (Participation)

The Board also welcomed County Councillor Cosima Towneley, Cabinet Member for Children and Families to the meeting.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 16 June 2021

Resolved: That the minutes were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising from them.

3. Terms of Reference

Sam Gorton, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council presented the amendments that had been made to the Terms of Reference following discussions at the last Board meeting in June 2021.

Resolved: That the Board approved the amendments and noted that these be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting in September 2021 for approval.

4. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2022 - Our Partnership Priorities

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council outlined to the Board new developments that had taken place since the last workshop in June 2021:

Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our service (Objective 1)

- A Care Leaver consultation had taken place at the end of June by the Care Leaving Service on the Local Offer, young people's expectations on their Personal Advisors, how the service communicates and shares information with young people, how Personal Advisors write about young people and how they can access their records. Feedback will be evaluated, and this will form future service delivery.
- Child and Family Wellbeing Service summer involvement events for LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Service) and the Care Leaver Forum (further information will be given later in the agenda).

Care Leavers in Lancashire will have a Local Offer (Objective 3)

- Following the Care Leaver Consultation the Local Offer will be reviewed, particularly looking at accommodation, preparation for life, health and wellbeing and education, employment and training (EET).

Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for (Objective 5)

With the support of Care Leavers a National Housing project has been secured which is another supported housing scheme to provide young people aged 17+ with permanent homes.

Following the last workshop the Board had in June 2021, the following four partnership priorities with the most complex objectives were identified as:

Placements and Provision

- Objective 5 - Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

- 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.

Safeguarding

- Objective 8 - Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation.

Education, Employment, Training

- Objective 4 - Children and young people will be supported in their education.

The Board engaged in a workshop and a group had been set up for each of the four objectives identified which would incorporate participation and partnership working. There was also a request to elected members on the Board to consider becoming a Champion for one of the four objectives due to the complexity that they present and it was felt that the Champions would strengthen the opportunities and the service that can be provided under the objectives.

The four questions that each group were required to discuss in the workshop were:

To achieve effective partnership working:

- What information does the CPB need to support each of the objectives and who from?
- Who needs to get involved to help the CPB to achieve positive outcomes for our children and young people for each of the objectives and how?
- What can the CBP do to support this process?
- How does the CPB want to be informed about progress on each of the objectives?

Following the workshop, the facilitators reported back from each of the four groups. Feedback from the break-out sessions can be found attached to the minutes. Following the workshop today and the one that took place in June, a format for the Board going forwards, will then be developed by the Permanence Service alongside an action plan which will be based on information received from both workshops and this will be shared at the next meeting of the Board in September.

- Resolved:**
- i) That elected members inform the Chair, County Councillor Clarke if they wish to become a Champion for one of the four objectives prior to the next Board meeting.
 - ii) That following both workshops, the Permanence Service will develop a format and an action plan for the Board meeting in September.

5. Any Other Business

Recruitment

Brian Wood, Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Lancashire County Council updated the Board on events that had been planned in order to recruit new young people and also consult with them about things that are relevant to them and for them to understand that they have a voice and can be heard and there is an opportunity to contribute to this Board and other formats. To do that, a new Participation Team has been set up, with five officers and an apprentice will hopefully join them in September/October 2021. The events are being conducted over six sessions, across three areas of Lancashire, North, Central and East virtually and in person.

The BBC Young Reporters will also be involved in the Zoom sessions across three different age ranges 8-11, 12-14 and 15+ and will do work around news (what is news and what is fake news) and will also provide some bespoke career sessions for those aged 15+. Also the BBC Young Reporters have close links with the BBC Apprenticeship routes and it has been agreed that if young people engage in the sessions that are being provided by the Child and Family Wellbeing Service, that they will happily support young people in planning apprenticeships with the BBC.

In the face-to-face sessions, there will be outward bound and team building activities across various locations for the same three age groups.

Further information is provided in the fliers that have already been circulated to foster carers, residential homes, social workers, partners such as NYAS and these will also be circulated to the Board.

An overview was also given on the recruitment process that is underway, across Lancashire for young people to have their voice heard across the different platforms that are available such as LINX and POWAR and there will be bigger cohorts of young people involved going forward at different levels, ie every young person in care will have an opportunity to air their voice on some sort of platform, there are also regional area groups meetings in North, Central and East who will feed into the groups such as LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council), Children in Care Forums and POWAR who will then be involved with interview processes and the recommencement of the Young Inspectors programme as well as young people attending the Corporate Parenting Board.

Resolved: That Brian Wood, Child and Family Wellbeing Service send copies of the fliers to Sam Gorton, Democratic Services to circulate to members of the Board to promote the activities available over the summer.

Future Agenda Items

The Board were also asked that if they had any items that they wished to be included on the agenda at any future meetings, to inform the Chair, County Councillor Stephen Clarke email: stephen.clarke@lancashire.gov.uk or the Clerk to the Board, Sam Gorton, email: sam.gorton@lancashire.gov.uk.

Ofsted Update

Sharon Hubber, Director of Children's Service, Lancashire County Council updated the Board on the recent focus visit from Ofsted who had been looking at the thresholds and the step up to child in need, step up to child protection, step down from child protection to child in need and then to early help. The highlights were noted as:

- The service was doing really well, even though there is still work to do.
- The service knows itself well.
- There was good leadership.
- Social workers were proud to work in Lancashire.
- The new model has been implemented which is going well.

Areas where there was still room for improvement and continue to be worked on were:

- Assessments
- Plans
- Voice of the child

The letter from Ofsted will be published on the 16 August 2021.

Resolved: That the Board noted the Ofsted update.

Meetings

The Board were informed that in between each Board meeting, there would be an informal meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chair and officers, to ensure they were kept updated of changes, progress and issues arising prior to the next Board meeting. These meetings will be scheduled until May 2022 when a review will take place.

Resolved: That Sam Gorton, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council arrange the informal meetings until May 2022.

Director of Children's Services

The Board noted that Sharon Hubber, Director of Children's Services would be leaving the Authority to become the new Director of Children's Services at Rochdale Borough Council. Sharon was wished good luck and thanked for all her contributions to the Board as well as in children's services for Lancashire, throughout her time with the Council.

The Board were informed that Barbara Bath would be the new Interim Director of Children's Services for Lancashire and was wished good luck in her new role.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 6pm, format to be agreed.

Corporate Parenting Board Workshop: Partnership Priorities

Held: 22.07.2021 - Notes and Outcomes

PLACEMENTS AND PROVISIONS (Objective 5 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy)

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Consultation with children and young people about what type of accommodation they want to live in and where
- Improve partnership working with housing leads in district councils
- Training for corporate parents and relevant partners to improve partnership working and offer
- Improve our communication strategy with partners and celebrate positive achievements of looked after children and care leavers better to challenge and overcome the negative stereotypes
- Elected members challenge stereotypes at district level (councils and providers)
- For everyone to raise ambitions for children in care and leaving care
- Develop a champion model at the Corporate Parenting Board
- Elected members advocate on behalf of care leavers with developers
- Sponsor accommodation

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED

- District based information
 - Demand
 - Placement and housing provisions
 - District housing managers to present their offer to the Corporate Parenting Board
 - Number of CLA/CL
 - Community and leisure provisions
 - Proximity of young people living independently to their support network (e.g. family/friends and former carers)
- What are good standards for placements and accommodation (e.g. foster placement, residential, supported accommodation)
- Child/Young Person perspective and carers perspective on placement breakdowns
- Reason for the chosen placement provisions (meeting needs vs availability)
- What is the quality assurance process for supported accommodation and what is the criteria for 'suitable accommodation'
- Provide update to the Corporate Parenting Board twice a year

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH (Objective 6 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy)

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Promote/embed the THRIVE model
- Promote/embed Trauma Informed Practice (TIP)
- Improve how young people are spoken and written about
- Develop a 'single door' approach for early access to support
- Improve diagnosis and intervention
- Develop a health and wellbeing directory of services available
- Identify community services that are not wellbeing services but provide emotional wellbeing support
- Identify support that addresses loss and social skills
- Identify support that counters feelings of low self-worth due to long waiting lists
- Update the Local Offer to include
 - Self-referral options/information
 - Split between physical and mental health information
 - Add the THRIVE model
 - Function to allow young people to provide feedback/rate services anonymously
- Mandatory mental health training for social workers and personal advisors
- Strengthen the presence of the Permanence Service at the Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership
- Elected members of the Corporate Parenting Board to strengthen the link with Lancashire's Health and Wellbeing Board
- Young People's involvement with the review of the Health Strategy (NHS)
- Set up a network event with all health and wellbeing services to learn from each other
- Improve young people's perception of health services (as they can be reluctant to accept support; e.g. utilise peer support which helps showing outcomes)
- Develop 'Going Forward' plans for the next 12 months in the context of Covid
- Gain clarity re Covid vaccinations for young people in care 16+ (in particular in the context of shared Parental Responsibility)

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED

- Information on health outcomes that also includes information on the how well young people are doing in the context of their emotional wellbeing/mental health needs
- Information on the take up of services and the effectiveness of services
- Overview of provisions available to help identifying gaps (incl. gaps in early intervention)
- General Health Data

- Young People consultation on what information to collate on the impact of Covid to enable an understanding of what is important and are the priorities for young people during a pandemic (enables current and future learning)
- Data and information provided to the Corporate Parenting Board to focus on what has changed
- Data and information to be shared at the beginning of the meeting to allow sufficient time to evaluate, understand and scrutinise

SAFEGUARDING (Objective 8 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy)

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Strengthen the presence of the Permanence Service within Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (Divert, Trauma Informed Practice, Data)
- Embed Trauma Informed Practice across services to better understand how to support and safeguarding young people
- Improve the language used when speaking about vulnerable young people and young people at risk to acknowledge they are victims
- Improve how we make young people aware of the support available to them
- Promote restorative justice instead of criminal justice
- Improve safeguarding partnerships in adulthood/links with Adult Safeguarding
- Ensure strong links with the Community Safety Partnership
- Utilise services and resources from the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP)
- Develop an overview of services available (incl. routes in and out of support) for professionals and young people
- Promote preventative actions and pathways of early support
 - Focus on young people not in education and with education health care plans
 - Explore offers of Targeted Youth Support
 - Utilise NYAS effectively (empower young people of feeling in control; learn from themes identified)
 - Support young people to access preventative support
 - Ensure preventative support is something to look forward to, is of value to the young person, gives opportunities to engage with other young people
 - Support young people to re-engage with education, employment, training

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED

- Overview of services available
- Data and information to be provided in a themed and comprised form jointly from multiple services and sources instead of separate data from separated sources and services

- Information on the journey of young people and outcomes

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING (Objective 4 of the Corporate Parenting Strategy)

Notes and outcomes are not yet available due to sickness and leave since the last corporate parenting board and will be circulated at the earliest opportunity.