

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 16 June 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

To agree for accuracy the notes of the meeting and receive any matters arising.

3. Terms of Reference (Pages 7 - 10)

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

To approve the amendments to the Terms of Reference.

4. Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2022 - Our Partnership Priorities (Pages 11 - 44)

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council

To develop a partnership plan for four overarching key priorities to promote permanence and support the objectives of our Corporate Parenting Strategy as identified at the last meeting held on 16 June 2021.

- Placements and Provisions
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Safeguarding
- Education, Employment and Training

5. Any Other Business

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

To receive any other business.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 6.00pm, format to be confirmed.

Agenda Item 2

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.

Constitution, Terms of Reference and Membership of the Corporate Parenting Board – June 2021

Terms of reference for the Corporate Parenting Board

Purpose:

The Corporate Parenting Board is an advisory body. It has two main functions:

1. To support and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on matters related to corporate parenting.
2. To advise, guide and provide leadership to the county council on issues relating to looked after children, care leavers and its corporate parenting responsibility.

To meet this purpose, the Corporate Parenting Board has the following aims and objectives:

- (a) To make sure that the whole council and relevant partner agencies commit to excellent standards of corporate parenting.
- (b) To set high expectations and stable relationships for all children in care and care leavers.
- (c) To seek improved long-term outcomes for children in care, care leavers and their families – for their happiness; well-being; educational success; **pathway into adulthood** and future prospects.
- (d) To make sure that the voice of the child and young person in care and leaving care influences both policy and the services that they receive, and that young people are engaged with any action intended to develop and improve services or to recruit key staff members.
- (e) To oversee and monitor the key performance indicators for the **placement and housing provisions**, health, well-being and education of looked after children and care leavers.
- (f) To consider the outcomes of regulatory visits and inspection reports on provision for children in care and care leavers and to receive regular reports on:
 - the work of the adoption and fostering services
 - the education of children in care
 - provision for **children and young people leaving care**, housing and education, employment and training for care leavers; and
 - work with those in the Secure Estate.

- (g) To ensure that relevant key plans, strategies and associated resources identify and make explicit the contribution that they make to targets agreed for improvement.
- (h) To celebrate the achievements of children looked after, their carers and care leavers.
- (i) To develop an informed view of County Council provision and services through a programme of well-planned visits and feedback from Board members.
- (j) To ensure that children looked after by the local authority are offered the protection of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2 September 1990.
- (k) To establish and maintain specific task groups as necessary to make recommendations to it.

Constitution

All Members of the Board and the Chair of the Board will be appointed by the Leader who will determine their period of office.

The Board will comprise of at least the following members, but the Leader may appoint additional members at his/her discretion:

- One or more Members of the largest group
- Opposition Groups Member nominee(s)
- Family/carer representatives
- Children and young people in care and care leavers representing young people from across the county

All the above members of the Board will be entitled to vote and the Chair will have a casting vote.

The Leader can make changes to the above appointments at any time.

- No Cabinet members will serve on the Board

Co-opted membership

The Board may co-opt representatives, without voting rights, from significant services involved in corporate parenting:

Health provision – including CAMHS

Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Schools

Colleges

Police

Youth Justice

Private sector provision

Voluntary sector provision
Safeguarding Board
Department for Work and Pensions
Housing Authorities
Lancashire County Council Corporate Management Team

The Board can make changes to the co-opted representation at any time.

The Lead Officer and/or Director of Children's Social Care will also attend all meetings to advise and support the Board.

The Board does not have decision-making powers and is not a formal Committee of the County Council.

The Board will meet bi-monthly or as otherwise agreed. The frequency of meetings can be changed by resolution of the Board or by the Chairman in consultation with the Lead Officer.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually at its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting of Full Council in May.


The Board will receive advice and reports from the following:

- (a) The Headteacher for Children Looked After, School Improvement
- (b) CiCC - Lancashire's Children in Care Council
- (c) Children and Young People's Champions:
 - representing the elected members of Lancashire County Council
 - representing the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- (d) Children's Right Service

July 2021

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2018-2022






“Young peoples’ input into the Corporate Parenting Strategy is massively important as we have the lived experience of what it is like to be a child looked after in Lancashire.”

“We have first-hand experience of what the local authority is like as a Corporate Parent and what could be done to improve this so we get the best experience possible.”

“We want to be kept informed of decisions that are made and the reasons behind why they have been made. This is our strategy and we want to affect how services are run and make sure they work for us. ”



“We want our voices to be heard and what we ask for and discuss to be acted upon. ”

Thank you to LINX and the Care Leavers Forum for helping us shape our strategy.

INTRODUCTION

We want all Lancashire children to lead successful and fulfilling lives. Our vision is that all children, young people and families in need of help are safe, healthy and supported to achieve.

Whilst children in and leaving our care have achieved incredible things, we know that our services and support to them are not yet consistently good enough. That is why we have worked with them to develop this strategy. It outlines the areas we are going to work together to improve and why. It also says how we will know when we have been successful. To make sure we deliver what we say we will every year we will have a detailed action plan for the whole council and our partners. We will check we are making good progress by reporting regularly to the Corporate Parenting Board which is made up of young people, elected members, foster and residential carers, council staff and our partners.

The strategy sets out our ambition for our children and how we intend to fulfil our corporate parenting responsibilities in a way which puts children and young people at the centre of improvements in the planning, delivery and evaluation of our services. It forms the framework in which Lancashire staff, elected members and relevant partners will work.

Thank you for supporting the strategy.



Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive
of Lancashire
County Council



**Cllr Geoff
Driver**
Leader of the
County Council



**Cllr Susie
Charles**
Cabinet Member
for Children, Young
People and Schools



Cllr Ian Brown
Chair of Corporate
Parenting Board

CONTENTS

1. What is Corporate Parenting?	1
2. Why do we need a strategy?	3
3. Who are we looking after?	7
4. What are we going to do?	9
5. How will we know we have made a difference?	16
Appendix 1	13
Appendix 2	14
Appendix 3	14
Appendix 4	15
Appendix 5	16
Appendix 6	17
Appendix 7	19
Acronyms	20



1. WHAT IS CORPORATE PARENTING?

Sometimes it is not possible for children and young people to be looked after safely by their families without support from social workers. When this happens they come into care and live with foster carers, residential carers, with extended family or in other types of placements. The obligations of their parents become the responsibility of everyone at the council and our partner organisations. The law says this means being their Corporate Parents and “providing them with the stability and support they need to make progress and helping them to access new opportunities and experiences that inspire them to set ambitious goals for themselves” (Keep on Caring 2016).

As a Corporate Parent we have the same goals for children in our care and moving on to independence as every good parent. We will always ask ourselves

“if this was my child, I would

We will strive to ensure everything we do is underpinned by 7 care principles:

- 1 to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people
- 2 to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- 3 to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people
- 4 to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- 5 to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people
- 6 for children and young people to be safe, and have stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- 7 to prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living

Our Top Tips for Good Corporate Parenting were developed with young people. Please see Appendix 1.



2. WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY?

In Lancashire we are very proud of our young people and everything they achieve.

This strategy will provide direction to the various services within the local authority and our partners to improve provision and opportunities to young people in our care and our care leavers. We want the very best for our young people and will support them to ensure that they can reach their fullest potential.

We know from research that children and young people who are looked after by the local authority can be at risk of having poorer outcomes than their peers. They are more likely to leave school with fewer qualifications, have a higher risk of offending and of not being engaged in education, employment and training.

We are fully committed to ensuring that all of our looked after children and young people receive a good education in a caring and supportive environment. Being supported to achieve their best at school enables children and young people to make a successful transition into further education, training and employment.

The Education, Employment and Training Plan for our looked after children and care leavers is being embedded into practice and the impact is beginning to be seen. A higher proportion of care leavers are successfully completing further education courses, entering apprenticeships and moving into higher education.

We know that physical and emotional health is important and as Corporate Parents it is our responsibility to ensure our children have access to excellent health care services and support.

Children and young people need to feel safe and have stability throughout their journey from childhood through adolescence and to independence. As Corporate Parents we will champion for safe places for children and young people to live and ensure they have appropriate access to financial support.

What our children and young people tell us will be at the heart of how our services are developed and delivered.

As Corporate Parents we will be ambitious for our children in care and care leavers.



3. WHO ARE WE LOOKING AFTER?

CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE IN
OUR CARE

IN FOSTER
CARE

LIVING
AT HOME

LIVING WITH AN
ADOPTIVE FAMILY

IN
RESIDENTIAL

SCHOOL

YOUNG PEOPLE
LIVING IN A STAYING
PUT ARRANGEMENT

IN ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS



4. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We have listened to children and young people and have produced nine key objectives that will improve the support we provide to them in the future.

OBJECTIVE 1

Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our services

‘To ensure that children and young people are consulted and actively participate in the decisions we make about how we deliver our services’.

‘Nothing about me without me’.

We will continue to consult with children looked after and care leavers through the Children in Care Council (LINX and POWAR), the Care Leavers Forum and the Corporate Parenting Board. They will have a say and be able to influence any changes to current services or the implementation of new services. We will continue to consult with as many children and young people as possible, using their ideas and recommendations to shape our services.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/need-to-know/linx-speaking-for-you/



OBJECTIVE 2

Children and young people can remain safely at home

‘To ensure that early support is provided at the right time to prevent the need for statutory intervention’.

It is important to ensure that whenever possible, children can live safely with their own family. It is always preferable to provide the necessary support to families to allow children to remain living at home than to seek to move them into care. We will always consider other family members or connected people first.

However, if children need to be looked after, we will ensure that this is carefully considered with the aim that they can return home if it is safe to do so. This will include working with a range of partners at every stage. Lancashire uses its Continuum of Need and Risk Sensible Model to identify support services that are needed for the family.

OBJECTIVE 3

Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'

'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.

The Children and Social Work Act, 2017 states an expectation that local authorities will publish information about:

- Services that local authorities offers to care leavers;
- Other services that local authorities and agencies offer that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living.

Lancashire's 'Local Offer'

The Local Offer was developed with young people following a consultation event at Lancaster University. It brings together a wide range of activities and services for care leavers. The Local Offer will be improved and enhanced over the course of the strategy.

For more information, please see Appendix 2.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/care-leavers-local-offer/



OBJECTIVE 4



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

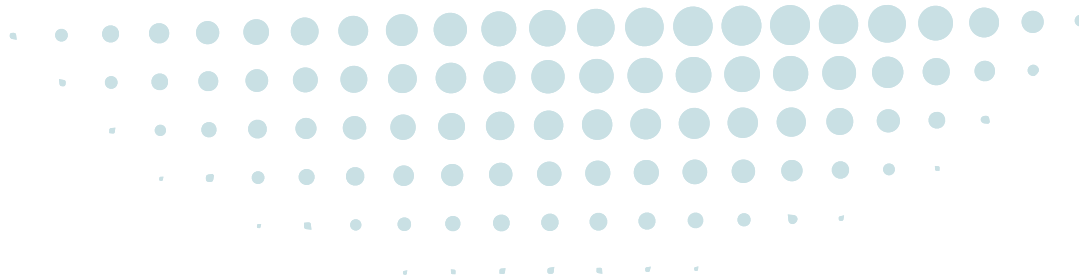
'To close the achievement gap between those children and young people that the local authority cares for and those that are cared for by their own families'.

Young peoples' likelihood of success in life is much better if they are supported into education, employment and training when they leave care. We recognise that young people who have been in care will often need additional access to these opportunities and we are committed to ensuring that this support is available. We are aware that many children and young people have gaps in their education and we are keen to ensure the children in our care are confident to access a range of educational settings, achieving success in whatever they choose to do. We want all our children to be their best.

Whilst the educational attainment of our children at Key Stage 1 and 2 is good, we know there is a lot more to do to improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4.

The Lancashire Virtual School for children in our care aims to provide support and challenge to schools, education providers, social work teams, and other key partners. The Virtual School also monitors and tracks the progress and individual educational outcomes and targets for all our children looked after and care leavers.

The Employment and Support Team (part of the Virtual School) support Lancashire County Council's children looked after and care leavers aged 14-25 years, with the next steps into employment, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and work experience. It is our aim to increase opportunities for the children we care for across Lancashire and ensure that opportunities are provided in each locality.



OBJECTIVE 5

Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for

'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'.

All children we care for should have access to opportunities to play, socialise, exercise and learn. Being in care shouldn't mean that children and young people miss out on any opportunities.

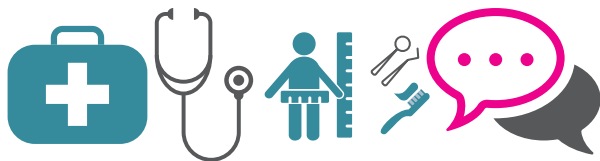
It is important that wherever a child is placed they are encouraged and supported to experience positive social and leisure activities to encourage their wellbeing.

As a child becomes an adult and they move to independence, housing providers and District Councils have an essential role to play in working with Lancashire County Council to provide enough good quality accommodation for care leavers. Lancashire County Council and its district partners are working hard to ensure that when young people are ready to live more independently, we are able to provide a range of move-on accommodation with support, as required.

Staying Put allows young people to remain with their foster carers post 18 years and is promoted as the best option for young people in foster care. Children's Social Care will continue to familiarise themselves with accommodation options for care leavers to ensure their young people's expectations are managed appropriately.



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 identifying, delivering and improving the health of children and young people who are looked after. An initial health assessment is undertaken when a child/ young person is new to care to identify any health needs, and dependant on their age a further review assessment is carried out 6 monthly or annually. Children looked after, can have complex health needs, both physical and psychological. The Looked After Children Nurses liaise with the wider health economy, such as paediatric therapy; dental services; GPs; specialist services e.g. CAMHS, as well as other agencies and non-statutory organisations to ensure health needs are met in the best way for the individual child or young person.

At the final health assessment, the young person leaving care will receive a summary of health needs letter, containing a summary of recent health issues, immunisation status, details of key health contacts, e.g. GP, LAC Nurse, sexual health services.

From listening to young people's feedback, we are currently working with Adult Services to ensure that any continuing support that is needed for our young people is planned before they become adults.

OBJECTIVE 7

Children and young people will receive appropriate financial support

'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'.

Lancashire County Council has listened to the voice of young people and understands how difficult it can be living independently. To assist with this, the local authority has ensured that all care leavers can gain assistance with their council tax.

Financial Procedures for care leavers has been refreshed and this sets out the amount of financial support that will be offered to children who are looked after and care leavers.



OBJECTIVE 8

Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation

'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'.

Partner agencies work together to ensure a coordinated response to children and young people most at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation, missing from home and trafficking. Dedicated exploitation teams minimise the number of professionals the child or young person has to work with.

The pathways and approaches for exploitation have been reviewed, updated and improved to be more child focused which will help to build positive working relationships with children who have experienced significant trauma through exploitation. Additional information can be found in Appendix 5a.

For further information, please see
www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk

Children missing from home

Two thirds of children identified as missing are open to social care and are looked after children. As a response, the local authority has implemented robust, child focused policies and procedures to help support children and young people when they are identified as being at risk of missing.

Children in our care and youth justice

Lancashire County Council's Children's Services', the Youth Offending Team, Lancashire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service have joint working arrangements to divert and prevent children looked after from offending behaviour and entering or escalating through the justice system.

There is a multi-agency plan in place to respond to the 'In Care of Trouble' agenda.

Additional information can be found in Appendix 5.

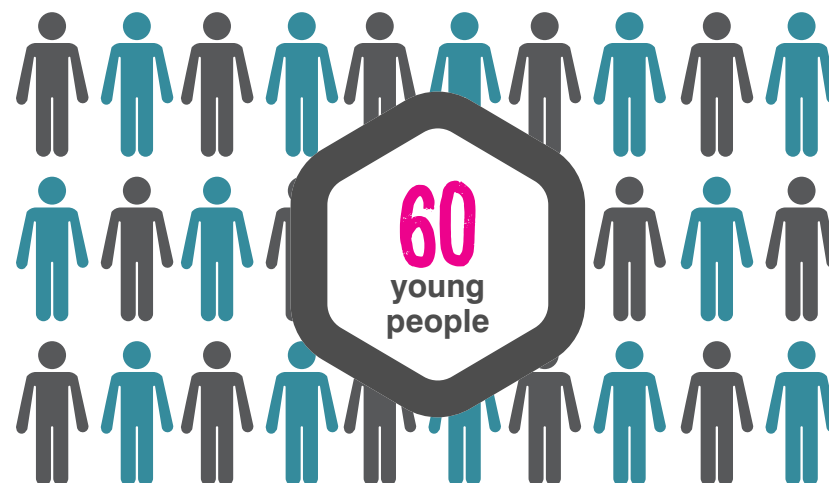
OBJECTIVE 9

Children and young people in our care and care leaver achievements are celebrated

'To ensure that the children we look after and have looked after, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.

Children in our care and care leavers have a variety of opportunities to celebrate their achievements. PROUD is the biggest event of the year with young people being nominated by a wide range of key workers and agencies.

The PROUD Awards are an opportunity for Corporate Parents to come together with our children and young people to celebrate their achievements. Approximately 60 young people and their guests attend PROUD each year. It serves as a timely reminder of our children and young people's resilience, many talents and successes despite the adversity and challenges many have overcome. This annual event will continue to celebrate our young people and show them how proud we are.



5. HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

WHAT WILL YOUNG PEOPLE SAY?

I FEEL GOOD ABOUT MY FUTURE

I FEEL SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR

I FEEL PROUD OF MY ACHIEVEMENTS

I FEEL ABLE TO SHARE MY VIEWS AND FEELINGS

WHAT WILL PARTNERS SAY?

WE UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE & SUPPORT

WE WORK AS A TEAM AND VALUE OUR DIFFERENT ROLES

WHAT WILL CORPORATE PARENTS SAY?

WE BUILD TRUSTING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OUR CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED
TO ACHIEVE THEIR BEST IN EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT

I AM PROUD
OF OUR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE

WE VALUE AND RESPOND
TO WHAT CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US

I WANT THE
BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL
SAFE AND CARED FOR

CORPORATE PARENTING APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Top Tips to Good Corporate Parenting What our Children and Young People say

01 **Know a Child/Young Person's Story**
Understand why your child/young person is in care from the file and also their story when you meet them.

02 **Care History**
Understand their care history, placements, and current placement i.e. who are the other children/young people in placement, are there any risks? Dynamics.

03 **Family/Contact**
Understanding their birth family is important to them, who they have contact with – is there anyone they are not allowed to see? Contact plan as part of care plan, the venue of contact/visits/supervised or unsupervised needs to be thought through.

04 **Purpose**
Visit regularly and understand why you are visiting your children.

05 **Assess and Plan**
What is the plan? Going home?
Staying in placement until adulthood?
Do an assessment to ensure this plan remains relevant.

06 **Ambition**
Have ambition for your children/young people. Education, hobbies, friends, wishes/wants.

07 **Voice of the Child/Young Person, their 'Lived Experience'**
Understand and listen to what your child feels/wants and evidence this. Who is your child close to i.e. teacher? Look at the best holistic way of obtaining the voice of the child/young person.

08 **Visit**
See your children on their own, take them out, do unannounced visits on occasion see what their everyday environment is like unstaged. Think about the purpose of the visit and what needs to be achieved.

09 **Multi Agency and Partnership Working**
Other agencies have information about your child/young person, their history, likes and dislikes, risks. They may see them every day and will have education and health information which assists you in building up a picture of what needs they may have and what the plan of care needs to be.

10 **Know your Resources, Support and Community**
Know what is there for your children young people that may benefit them.

11 **Child/Adolescent Development**
Understand your child's history and child/adolescent development.

12 **Identity and Diversity**
Be aware of specific issues, special educational needs, criminality, transgender, sexuality, cultural and ensure this is acknowledged in care plans.

APPENDIX 2

Priorities identified at the Care Leaver Local Offer Event at Lancaster University in April 2018. More detailed information can be provided.

Accommodation

- Accommodation options in the area they were in care
- Smaller types of supported accommodation
- What support can I get from housing?
- Practical skills to prepare for independence

Health and Wellbeing

- Better transition to adult services, adult services need to know about issues facing care leavers

Relationships

- Would like peer-peer support from other care leavers
- Good support from personal adviser but would like to see her more

Education, Employment and Training

- Great if care leavers received an apprenticeship bursary like they do at university
- Opportunities to visit universities
- Need a list of training providers in the area where I live

Other Support and Participation

- Care leaver forums in other areas
- Information on what a Care Leaver Forum is
- Activity groups that are after 5pm
- Out of hours support

APPENDIX 3

Education Attainment

Key Stage 1 (end of year 2: 7 years old)

- Lancashire KS1 CLA achieved above national average for CLA in every subject area: Reading, Writing, Maths and all three combined and well above average in Writing and the combined measure for Reading, Writing and Maths
- Compared to 2015-16 our KS1 CLA increased attainment in all subject areas and above the rate of increase for CLA nationally.
- Key Stage 2 (end of year 6: 11 years old)
- Lancashire KS2 CLA achieved above the national average for CLA in Reading, Maths, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, and also in Reading, Writing and Maths combined
- Writing assessment was lower for our KS2 CLA than the national average, though we had a higher % of pupils (9%) who achieved Writing at greater depth than the national average (6%)
- Compared to 2015-16 our pupils increased attainment in all measures except in Writing
- Progress from KS1 to KS2
- Lancashire CLA who had been in care for at least 12 months,

made greater progress than those with similar starting points, from the end of KS1 to KS2 than national CLA average, in Reading, Writing and Maths

- Progress in Maths was significantly higher than national rate
- Key Stage 4 (end of year 11: 16 years old)
- Attainment and progress was below the national average- measured by scores obtained, and progress measured, across 8 examinations (Attainment 8, Progress 8)
- The attainment and progress of CLA in 2016-18 decreased nationally from 2015-16, and in Lancashire this decrease was higher than the national average

Currently 69% of our CLA/care leavers are in education, employment and training in May 2018, compared to 53% of the same cohort in May 2017.

97% of this group are currently assessed as on track to achieve their qualification.

The merger of the Employment and Support Team with the Virtual School (November 2017) and the commitment from the LA of significant funding (9 April 2018) had greatly increased the level of support that is available to support CLA and care leavers into employment. Since April 2017 the team has supported 241 young people. 84 have accessed work experience placements and to date 50 have progressed into paid employment, which has increased from a total of 16 in the same period in 2016-17.

APPENDIX 4

Care Leavers

Revised information on the financial support available to care leavers will be shared after it has been agreed at Cabinet in the autumn. Additional information will be published on the Local Offer website, once it has been confirmed.

Moving Towards Independence

- Young people will be supported by their personal advisers, social workers and key workers if they reside in supported accommodation. Practice guidance has been published which provides a consistent message and support for young people.

ASDAN Awards

The ASDAN Living Independently Short Course is focused on helping children looked-after make a successful transition to adulthood. The course supports the cross-government strategy to transform support for young people leaving care – ‘Keep on caring: supporting young people from care to independence’. 347 packs have been issued to care leavers in Lancashire. The packs can be completed with support from their personal advisers, foster carers or any other support worker.

APPENDIX 5

A comprehensive approach has been crafted in respect to not only supporting children identified as being missing, but also to enable children, young people and professionals to be able to gain a fuller understanding of the push and pull factors that orbit children when identified as missing.

Such an approach is crucial to ensure that the local authority is able to respond to the needs of children placed in its care and to be able to offer children and young people the support and guidance that one would expect from a parent.

Lancashire County Council has a clear process pathway in order for children and young people to be supported. This includes the child or young person being seen within 72 hours of being found and being offered a return home interview. These interviews are holistic and child focused and allow the child and young person to gain some insight and understanding into the possible reasons they may go missing and what support can be provided to assist the child or young person to reduce their missing episodes.

As a Corporate Parent, we are resolute in ensuring that all children placed in our care, that are subsequently identified as being at risk of missing, are offered a comprehensive package of support that reflects their individual needs.

a) Missing From Home

Lancashire County Council has implemented Missing Intervention Meetings, where the child, parents and carers are invited to discuss identified concerns pertaining to missing episodes. These meetings allow the child or young person to explore the reasons why they go missing and what the local authority, as a Corporate Parent, can do to help alleviate these incidents.

Monthly Missing from Home Panels are held, where the most high risk missing cases are discussed in a multi-agency forum. The panel discuss the child's care plan and evaluate if certain aspects of the plan needs revisiting to ensure that the plan is appropriate to the child's.

This approach has already proven to be highly effective in addressing identified issues and then being able to make recommendations for level 3 strategy meetings to be held in order for the child's care plan to be evaluated and if needed amended. It is agreed that such swift actions allow for the child's care plan to not only be evaluated, but for a comprehensive, holistic and child focused response to be provided when a child has been identified as being at risk of missing.

The Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) Meeting occurs on a monthly basis and interlinks with the missing Education and Missing From Home Panels to ensure that all areas of risk within a child's life are captured and plans established. The MACSE is a multi-agency meeting and is attended by all required partners to inform decision making in relation to plans

and intervention, such as disruption or prosecution of perpetrators. The plans established within the meeting also help to safeguard children.

The exploitation teams work closely with the child's social worker in order to support, assist and befriend alongside the risk assessment and risk management plan. This joined up working provides additional support to a child when they have been a victim of exploitation.

The service also commissions additional support and training from experts within the field to upskill staff and work directly with children who require specialist intervention and support to begin to address the trauma they have experienced. All training delivered is multi-agency and links in with the LSCB.

b) Children Missing Education

In Lancashire, the Children Missing Education (CME) Panel fits within the structure of multi-agency meetings and panels across Lancashire, including Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) and Missing from Home (MFH). The CME Panel meets monthly and is attended by representatives from Education, CME, Virtual School, Pupil Access, SEND, CSE and CFW. New cases of CME are identified by the CME Team in priority order across Lancashire; these are added to the existing open cases. At each panel previous cases are discussed.

There are three outcomes at the panel:

1. A case may be closed if the child or young person is now in education
2. A case may be referred to MFH or MACSE if a situation has escalated and other issues make the child/young person more vulnerable
3. A case remains on the panel list and will be returned to at the next meeting when updates on new actions will be discussed. Each action is clearly allocated to an individual and they have responsibility for progressing that action.

APPENDIX 6

Legislation

- Section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 (the Act)
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended 2015)
- The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 (the Care Leavers Regulations)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Act is intended to improve support for children looked after and care leavers. It sets out principles for local authorities to be the best parent they can be to children in their care.

Section 1 introduces seven principles of Corporate Parenting which local authorities must have regard to for children looked after or care leavers. (See below).

Section 2 requires local authorities to publish information about the services it offers to care leavers which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. These services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation, and participation in society. It is distinct from the special educational needs and disability (SEND) local offer stipulated by the Children and Families Act 2014.

Section 3 requires local authorities to appoint a personal adviser for care leavers who request one up until the age of 25, regardless of whether the young person intends to pursue education or training. The local authority also has a duty to carry out an assessment of the young person's needs and to provide the necessary advice and support. This includes supporting young people to access housing options teams and to ensure that they are able to access the correct information.

www.local.gov.uk/get-act-children-and-social-work-act-2017

Keep on Caring

In 2016, the government launched its new strategy, 'Keep on Caring'. It outlined its vision for further reform of support for care leavers based on innovation, system reform and the embedding of corporate parenting responsibility across society.

Strategic priorities include: better preparation for independent living; access to education, employment and training; improved stability, through funding for Staying Put arrangements and introducing Staying Close for young people leaving residential care; health and wellbeing and financial stability.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-on-caring-supporting-young-people-from-care-to-independence

Ofsted

From 2018, the way Care Leavers Services will be inspected is going to change. For more information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-strategy-2017-to-2022>

Health of Looked After Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2

Educational Attainment of Looked After Children

www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children

Looked after Children and Youth Justice

DfE - CA 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 2 - Care Planning, Placement & Case Review (Supplement)

APPENDIX 7

The role of Elected Members/District Councils/External Partners

- Have a clear understanding and awareness of the issues for looked after children and care leavers in the authority area and those placed out of area
- Champion the interests of looked after children and care leavers in all they do
- Ask questions about outcomes for children and challenge appropriately
- Ensure looked after children and care leavers have a say in how decisions are made about the services that affect them, so they can influence those decisions. This includes councillors engaging with the looked after children council and the leaving care council
- Provide meaningful work based training opportunities, including apprenticeships for care leavers within the council and its partners and contractors to improve their future prospects
- Ensure children placed out of county receive an equal service
- Ensure that the council, as Corporate Parent, is keeping the promise it has made in the Care Leavers Pledge
- Require evidence of improving positive outcomes and aspirational progress for Lancashire's looked after children
- Ask how all elements of council business have an impact for looked after children
- Make connections and links between council plans, strategies and decision-making for looked after children

ACRONYMS

Care leavers fall into four categories which have been defined in the Children Act 1989;

1. Eligible
2. Relevant
3. Former relevant
4. Qualifying

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFW - Child, Family and Wellbeing Service
CLA - Child looked after
CME - Child Missing Education
CP - Child Protection Plan
CSC - Children's Social Care
CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation
DfE - Department for Education
GP - General Practitioner (doctor)
KS - Key Stage (in reference to education)
LA - Local authority
LAC - Looked after child (Health)
LCC - Lancashire County Council
LCS - Lancashire's recording system

LINX - Children in Care Council
LSCB - Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board
LYOT - Lancashire Youth Offending Team
MACSE - Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation
MASH - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MFH - Missing from Home
PA - Personal advisers
PEP - Personal Education Plan
SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability
SW - Social Worker

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.

Objective 1	Children and young people have a voice in the way we deliver our services
	<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"> ➤ Consultation with Children in Care Council (Lynx and POWAR) and Care Leaver Forum to influence changes to the service ➤ Consultation with as many children as possible to shape the service ➤ Using children's and young people's ideas and recommendations to shape service 	

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 expressing 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>Objective 3</h1>	Care leavers in Lancashire will have a 'Local Offer'
	<i>'To ensure that all care leavers feel supported and can access a range of services to promote their continued wellbeing into adulthood'.</i>
➤ Lancashire has a Local Offer for Care Leavers	

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
	<i>‘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’.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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>	Children and young people will have a suitable place to live and be cared for
	<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">➤ Our children and young people are encouraged and supported to experience positive social and leisure activities to encourage their wellbeing➤ Housing providers and District Councils work with LCC to provide enough good quality accommodation for care leavers➤ CSC familiarise themselves with accommodation options for care leavers to manage their expectations	

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
	<i>'To improve the health and wellbeing of the children and young people we care for'.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.

Objective 7	Children and young people will receive appropriate financial support
	<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>
➤ 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	

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

Objective 8	Children are protected from harm and risk of exploitation
	<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>
➤ Coordinated response with partner agencies to children and young people most at risk of exploitation, MFH and trafficking	
➤ Joint actions to divert from offending and entering/escalating through the youth justice system	

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 to 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

Objective 9	Children and young people in our care and care leaver achievements are celebrated
	<i>'To ensure that the children we look after and have looked after, are recognised for their achievements and successes'.</i>
○ PROUD awards	

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

