

Please note refreshments are available in the Exchange from 5.30pm

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies

County Councillor Clarke

To note who is attending and any apologies for absence.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 23 November 2023

(Pages 1 - 10)

County Councillor Clarke

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

3. Participation Team Update (15 mins)

Young people from LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council), April Rankin and Adam Riley, Participation Team, Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC

To receive an update on what the Participation Team have been doing with LINX and the Care Leavers Forum since the last Board meeting.

4. Participation Strategy (15 mins)

Clare Smith, Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, LCC

To receive and discuss the Participation Strategy in particular The Lundy Model - <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/children-and-young-peoples-participation/>

5. Priorities and Actions from the Corporate Parenting Board Development Session (30 mins)

Brendan Lee, Looked After Children and Leaving Care, LCC and Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, LCC

To discuss the outcomes and what the Board will do next following on from the Corporate Parenting Board Development Session held on 27 February 2023.

- 6. Executive Summary of the Six Monthly Corporate Parenting Report for Adoption Lancashire and Blackpool 1 April - 30 September 2022 (30 mins)** (Pages 11 - 24)

Karen Barker, Fostering Adoption Lancashire Blackpool & Residential Services, LCC

To receive the six-monthly report which reports on the management, outcomes for children/other service users and financial state of adoption.

- 7. Any Other Business**

County Councillor Clarke

To receive any other business.

- 8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

County Councillor Clarke

Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 'C' – The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

Agenda Item 2

Lancashire County Council

Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022 at 6.00pm
in Savoy Suite 2 - The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ

Present: Members

County Councillor	Stephen Clarke	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor	Anne Cheetham OBE JP	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor	Andrea Kay	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor	Scott Smith	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor	Rupert Swarbrick	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor	Julie Gibson	- Lancashire County Council
	Mary	- LINX Representative
	Jaymie	- LINX Representative
	Ripley	- LINX Representative
	Chris	- LINX Representative
	Saskia	- LINX Representative

Co-opted members

Audrey Swann	- Vulnerable and Looked After Children, LCC
Moya McKinney	- Permanence Service, LCC
Gina Power	- Permanence Service, LCC
Clare Platt	- Health, Equity, Welfare and Partnerships, LCC
Hayley Kinowski	- Safeguarding, Audit and Inspection, LCC
Amanda Barbour	- Fostering, Adoption Lancashire Blackpool, and Residential Services, LCC
Adam Riley	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service
April Rankin	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service
Jennifer Donnelly	- Lancs 0-19, HCRG
Maureen Huddleston	- Morecambe Bay Hospital Trust, NHS (Virtual)
Caroline Waldron	- NHS Integrated Care Board, Lancashire and South Cumbria

Other Attendees

Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC
Jane Hylton	- Permanence Service, LCC
Ralph Rushworth	- Permanence Service, LCC
Brendan Lee	- Permanence Service, LCC

1. Introductions and Apologies

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from Janice Laing, Brian Wood, Beverley Lyon, Kirsty Clarke, Liz Donnelly Nelson, Catherine Brooks, Sharon Hilton and Andreas Feldhaar. Apologies from Observers were as follows, Louise Anderson, Clare Smith and County Councillor Cosima Towneley. Apologies had also been received from Umer Khonat who was due to present Item 4.

The following new members were welcomed to their first meeting:

- County Councillor Anne Cheetham OBE JP had replaced County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite.
- Clare Platt, Head of Service for Health Equity, Equity and Partnerships, Lancashire County Council

It was noted that Jenny Donnelly was attending on behalf of Rebecca McGeown, Lancashire 0-19, Health Care Resourcing Group (HCRG).

The Board were informed that Louise Anderson had replaced Andy Smith as Director of Children's Social Care, Lancashire County Council and that Jacqui Old had replaced Edwina Grant OBE as the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.

It was noted that members of the Board who had not sent apologies would receive a letter from the Chair of the Board, reminding them to either send their apologies for meetings and/or send a replacement if possible.

Resolved: That a letter be sent to non-attending members from the Chair of the Board. Brendan Lee and Sam Gorton to liaise regarding past attendance at Board meetings.

2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 20 September 2022

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

3. Update from the Four Corporate Parenting Board Priority Groups

In the absence of Andreas Feldhaar, Jane Hylton, Permanence Service presented an update on the four Corporate Parenting Board Priority Groups.

The Board were informed that there had been Sector Led Improvement visits from Essex County Council during the Autumn, and feedback included some of the areas the Priority Groups were working on, which had followed visits to the 35 teams across Lancashire in Children in Our Care and Leaving Care Services. Diagnostic feedback will be given to each team and a presentation will also be given from Essex County Council on the findings to the Executive Director of

Education and Children's Services, Director of Children's Social Care in Lancashire and the Head of Permanence Service.

The Board noted the following updates on:

Achieving Permanence

- Sector Led Improvement (SLI) visits in September/October/November to Children in Our Care and Leaving Care
- Feedback received was:
 - Committed and passionate practitioners who know their children and young people well
 - Good and creative care planning to meet the needs of our children
 - A lot of good practice across Children in Our Care and Leaving Care identified

Improving Sufficiency to Provide the Right Home at the Right Place

Sector Led Improvement (SLI) feedback on:

- Children in Our Care Lasting Home Panels: really good process to approve and celebrate a child's permanent home
- Leaving Care Lasting Home Panels: really good process to support a young person's pathway into housing
- Care Leavers Joint Housing Protocol: really good achievement for a Tier 2 authority to have this signed off across 12 districts
- Care Leavers Joint Housing Protocol: not yet consistently applied across Lancashire
- Lancashire House Project: Good progress for our first 10 young people and commitment from registered social landlords to support the project

County Councillor Gibson and Kay requested to meet with Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council to discuss the current workstream regarding this priority.

Improving Education, Employment and Training Opportunities

- Sector Led Improvement (SLI) feedback for Leaving Care: Can see how the service explores creative opportunities for care leavers
- Regular meetings between Virtual School, Permanence Service and Colleges in place to improve the offer to care leavers and work ongoing
- Working on improving data, information, and intervention for Pupils Missing Education (PME)
- Intended Destination Tracking has been extended by the Virtual School
- Commissioning is undertaking a scoping exercise to ensure young people have free access to Wi-Fi where they live as part of Lancashire County Council's future contracts (Block/Agency Leaving Care)

It was suggested that a Jobs Fayre be held for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers from Year 9, to see what opportunities are available for them when they leave school at 16 years of age and to enable them to have a choice post 16 and receive support. This would be a great opportunity for them to speak with employers and further education establishments and be supported by officers and Elected Members as their Corporate Parents, so they have an extra network around them, to support them with their choices.

Improving Social, Physical, Emotional and Mental Health Support

- Ask JAN from the Rees Foundation now available to Lancashire's Care Leavers
- Joint working with mental health partners to embed the Risk Support Model
- Participating in NHS England consultation on the mental Health Crisis programme for young people
- Further updates on this are also part of the Health Focus at this Board meeting

It was noted that the Corporate Parenting Board needs to revisit all the Priority Groups and look at ways it can drive this agenda forwards even more and how it can influence the Council to support Children in Our Care and Care Leavers further.

Resolved: That the Corporate Parenting Board agreed that:

- i) Brendan Lee, Permanence Service, would request that Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council convene a meeting with County Councillors Kay and Gibson for an update on the current position of the Improving Sufficiency to Provide the Right Home at the Right Place priority.
- ii) Ralph Rushworth, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council would begin talks with Brendan Lee, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council on consulting with young people and what they would want from a Jobs Fayre and to start to look at arranging one in Lancashire.
- iii) It would revisit all four Priority Groups in order to drive the agenda forwards even more and look at how it can influence the Council to support Children in Our Care and Care Leavers further.

4. Performance Data

As the presenter for this item had sent their apologies, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next Corporate Parenting Board meeting on 12 January 2022.

Resolved: That the Clerk would add this item to the next agenda.

5. Children in Care and Care Leavers Health

Caroline Waldron, Maureen Huddleston, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board NHS, Jenny Donnelly, Lancashire 0-19, HCRG and Young People, LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council presented the item.

The Board received a health presentation (attached to the minutes) from LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council), who talked about what health is to them. They reported that health is very important to them and that it affects them physically, mentally and emotionally and that mental health is a key aspect that is often spoken about among young people.

The young people engaged the Board in a health quiz, discussed the permanence plan and the priorities for young people, shared personal experiences from young people's groups and talked about how young people can support the process of health and issues regarding the health passport.

In terms of the Corporate Parenting Board priorities young people reported that they felt the main ones that should be focused on first are:

- Improving sufficiency to provide the right home at the right place
- Improving social, physical, emotional and mental health support and outcomes

Young people commented that the reasons they felt those two priorities were key were:

- That home is a place where you need to be stable, and if your home is not stable then you cannot be stable.
- They felt that for some living on their own between 18-25 can be too early as they feel isolated and are not ready or prepared to live on their own.
- Their health and mental health are affected if they are not feeling prepared to live on their own.
- They may feel they are not equipped to look after themselves, for example, eating right, getting enough sleep, and having clean and tidy spaces.

The Board noted that young people had agreed for some of their experiences to be shared with the Board as follows:

A 13-year-old in one of the groups, shared that they had been on a six-year waiting list for braces. Recently, after discussing this at a previous meeting, they had been contacted by the hospital for a referral code and has then contacted the brace specialist. They now have an appointment for January and hopefully this appointment will lessen their waiting time. They have had a front tooth knocked out and has a temporary implant, which they need to be replaced regularly and this pushes their teeth out at the front. For this young person not having straight teeth is causing other people at school to bully them and is affecting their mental health.

The Board noted that the Rossendale Dental Pilot that had previously been presented to the Board, should be revisited and rolled out across Lancashire. It was also suggested that links could be made with UCLAN and the Dental Hospital as they may be able to provide further support to Children in Care and Care Leavers. Caroline Waldron, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board informed the Board that building on from the Rossendale Pilot, there is now an Integrated Care Board Steering Group to drive the dental offer/model forwards across Lancashire. Links have also been made with Orthodontists via the Dental Commissioners, with a request to having dedicated resources for Children in Care and Care Leavers for dental provision and to ensure they are prioritised. The Board were also informed that Dentists can refer children to an Orthodontist years before they are needed, to ensure they are in the system if they require treatment later in childhood. The Board noted that it will receive a Dental Model at a future Board meeting which will outline some of the detail of what will be available to Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Another young person reported that the mental health part of health is most important to them as their personal experience of mental health affects their day-to-day living. The young person shared that it affects them getting a job, their eating habits, sleeping habits and every aspect of life. They felt that if you are applying for a job, your mental health needs to be in order. The young person is actively looking for work and has had a bad experience with their first job, where they were sacked after management wanted them to open up and run a restaurant after four days of being employed with no training advice or support on how to do so. This left the young person stressed and suicidal at how they were treated and how the situation went and has now left them in a position of worry for any future jobs. The young person has now done a self-referral and assessment with Minds Matter and is comfortable talking to their friendship network and Participation Colleagues April Rankin and Adam Riley when things get too difficult or to share what is on their mind. Advice was offered on an individual basis on Trade Union support for those who wish to receive it. Support was also offered to the young person to work with an Officer to write a letter to the restaurant and raise the issue formally with them as a Corporate Parent and to support the young person in looking for other employment opportunities.

Another young person reported to the Board that their good and bad experiences of health. Their bad experience was having to wait a long time to be seen following an epileptic fit after surgery. They waited six hours to be seen and afterwards another month to see an Epileptic specialist about their condition. They are still waiting now to be prescribed different medication as they had a reaction to the first prescribed drug. The young person reported that they had had a positive experience with nurses recently, as they were non-judgemental and the young person felt that they supported them as much as possible when the young person felt they were wasting the professionals time of which they reassured them, that it was better to be safe than sorry and said positive things to the young person which helped them in that situation.

The young people reported how they felt they could support the health process and that they understand that more money or more staff is not always an option. Therefore, as participation influencers they can show their support for health by offering to do the following:

- Become health champions – Young People along with the Participation Team will look at this training in the new year which will enable Care Experienced Young People to be trained to deliver sessions about health on specific modules within the course to younger members of the groups and within the wider participation groups.
- Talk about and share experiences with other professionals or other young people. They feel that if this is done within their groups, it might break down barriers of other young people feeling lonely or isolated or share what may have worked for that particular young person and might work for someone else. This can be in all aspects of health.
- For all participation groups to look at fundraisers for NHS or health charities.
- Requested that they would like additional training on mental health, basic first aid, healthy eating, anxiety, panic attacks, epilepsy, and asthma in order to help friends, peers, families, staff and communities.

Young people asked the Board if they could help with any of the following:

- Direction
- Advice
- Information
- Help
- Assistance
- Guidance
- Solution
- Competence

Any details provided by members, would be collected and contact would be made following the meeting.

Following discussions further offers/suggestions were that:

- Caroline Waldron would report back to the Integrated Care Board on the asks from the young people regarding training and to find out what the NHS can offer and report back to the Board.
- Elected Members agreed that a report be presented to Cabinet on behalf of the Corporate Parenting Board requesting that Cabinet considers offering fully funded training in mental health first aid and emergency first aid for all young people in the care of Lancashire County Council. This was proposed by County Councillor Scott Smith and seconded by County Councillor Julie Gibson.
- All Care Experienced Young People should be made aware of who their councillors are (including a list of Lancashire County Councillors who are all Corporate Parents) and to receive training on the Two-Tier Council system, particularly about which Council offers what service.

In terms of the Health Passport, young people reported that after having discussed it, most care leavers within the group had not heard of it or received it. Therefore they had some questions of members of the Board on:

- When did the Health Passport come out?
- Why have all care leavers still under the Local Authority not received this?
- What is the best way to receive it?
- Is there a way to backdate it to make sure all the care leavers receive this? If not, why?

Caroline Waldron, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria, Integrated Care Board, welcomed the young people's comments and questions and would feed this back into the system with professionals who support children in care and care leavers at the next focused activities meetings which was on Health Passports. It is also recognised by health professionals that it is not in line with how people receive information and that this needs addressing alongside ensuring those that need to receive a copy, get one. Young people's ideas on the design of the Health Passport and what information they feel should be included are also welcome.

The Board noted that health colleagues contact young people's Personal Adviser's to find out how young people wish to receive their Health Passports. There is a Task and Finish Group for Lancashire and South Cumbria to review Health Passports and seek feedback from young people as to how they wish to receive the information. Young people's involvement in this piece of work will be key to its success. A consistent approach is being sought by all partners including Health and Children's Services, to ensure all Care Leavers receive the passport at the right time.

The Board noted that the Permanence Service is keen to ensure that Personal Advisers speak with Social Workers when a young person is transitioning and that work between them both commences at around 16 years of age to ensure a smooth transition and that all information is shared as necessary.

Young people were asked that if they do not have a Health Passport, to speak with their Social Worker/Personal Adviser who in turn will contact the Children in Care Nurses who will ensure the information is received by the young person.

LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) were thanked for their comprehensive presentation.

Caroline Waldron, Maureen Huddleston, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board NHS, Jenny Donnelly, Lancashire 0-19, HCRG provided an overview of activity that has been happening in the health system and how they support children in care.

The Board received further information on the following:

- Integrated Care Boards
- Statutory Health Assessments – Lancashire Arrangements
- HCRG Care Group offer in Lancashire:
 - Who they are?
 - What they do?
 - What can they support with?
 - How can they be contacted?
- Enhanced Children in Care Teams
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) - Health of Children in Care

The Board were informed that a key priority going forwards was to work more closely with Children's Social Care on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.

It was requested that Health be an item on every other meeting of the Board going forwards.

Resolved: That the Corporate Parenting Board:

- i) Noted the update from the Young People, Caroline Waldron, NHS Integrated Care Board and other health professionals.
- ii) Agreed that Brendan Lee, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council present a report to Cabinet in January 2023 requesting that it considers offering fully funded training in mental health first aid and emergency first aid for all young people in the care of Lancashire County Council.
- iii) Agreed that the Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council will ensure that all Care Experienced Young People be made aware of who their councillors are and that they receive training on the Two-Tier Council system, particularly about which Council offers what service.
- iv) Agreed that Caroline Waldron, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, would find out what training might be available for young people from the NHS Integrated Care Board and report findings back to the Board.
- v) Health colleagues will consult with the Participation Team and the Young People with regards to requirements/improvements for the Health Passport.
- vi) Health and the Permanence Team will carry out a data assessment on young people to see who are in receipt of Health Passports and to ensure all young people have a Social Worker or Personal Adviser and report back to a future meeting of the Board.
- vii) That Health be an item on alternate Board meetings.

6. Care Leaver Week 2022

Due to the limited amount of time left in the meeting, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next Corporate Parenting Board meeting.

Resolved: That the Clerk would add this item to the next agenda.

7. Timetable of Meetings 2023/24

Resolved: That the Board noted the timetable of meetings for 2023/2024.

8. Any Other Business

Ofsted Visit

The Board were informed that Ofsted would commence their Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services, (ILACS) visit which will look at Children's Social Care. The Standard Visit will commence on 28 November 2022 and over the course of 2-3 weeks, up to six inspectors will speak to staff at all levels in the service, children and young people and representatives from a number of partner organisations.

Inspectors will make the following graded judgements:

- overall effectiveness
- the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers
- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families

Outcomes of the inspection will be presented at the next Corporate Parenting Board meeting on 12 January 2023.

Resolved: That the Board noted the Ofsted visit and would support the Service where necessary.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 6.00pm in Savoy Suite 2, The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.

What is Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool?

- Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool is a Regional Adoption Agency.
- Regional Adoption Agencies were created by the government saying that Local Authorities needed to join their adoption service.
- Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council came together and formed Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool in April 2020

What does Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool do?

- Recruitment and approval of adopters including Early Permanence Adopters
- Support to adopters up to the making of the child's Adoption Order
- Family finding for children
- Adoption Support to adopters pre and post Adoption Order, this includes universal support to all adopters and undertaken adoption assessments as requested by adopters.
- Counselling to birth parents
- Support for adoptees accessing their adoptive records.

What are Lancashire & Blackpool responsible for in Adoption?

- Responsible for the child pre-adoption order
- Responsible for the provision of services to the adoptive child and their families if not related to adoption

Why does Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool complete a 6 monthly report?

Adoption National Minimum Standards state

- that a 6 monthly report is presented to the Corporate Parenting Board
- which reports on the management, outcomes for children/other service users and financial state of adoption

So, what does the report say?

Management of Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool

- Managed by a board made up of directors and senior managers in both local authorities, adopters and the senior manager for Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool
- Board is bi monthly- strategic management of Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool
- Operations meeting – monthly looks at the practice with Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool and both local authorities
- Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool managed through Lancashire as host

How many children were adopted?

- Lancashire had 20 children adopted- this reflects the decreasing number of children having adoption as their care plan
- Blackpool had 21 children adopted- this is more than whole of last year and is because children in adoptive homes are now achieving their adoption orders

How many children placed for adoption?

- Lancashire had 16 children move into adoptive homes
- Blackpool had 12 children move into adoptive homes

How many children had Placement Orders made?

Placement Orders give the local authority the power to place a child in an adoptive home

- Lancashire had 23 children who had adoption plans approved by the court
- Blackpool had 14 children who had adoption plans approved by the court

Why are the figures different?

Placement Orders are made over the whole period as are children placed with their adoptive parents. So, there is often a mismatch between the numbers. However unfortunately Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool can struggle to find adoptive homes and because of this some of our children can wait longer to be found a home.

How many adopters were approved?

- 31 Adopters were approved in the period

Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool try to recruit a range of adopters which meet the needs of children requiring homes.

Trends in children requiring adoptive homes.

- 54% of all children were part of a brother/sister group - this is going up.

Lancashire

- 61% of children in were female
- 44% of children aged under 1
- 13% of children aged 1-4
- 39% of children aged 5-9
- 4% of children 10-15

The children requiring adoptive homes are getting older due to being part of brother/sister groups

Blackpool

- 57% of children male
- 29% of children aged under 1
- 64% of children aged 1-4
- 7% of children aged 5-9

Blackpool always had more children under one this has decreased whilst 1-4 years has increased and now biggest group.

Any questions?

