

# Confident in care. Confident in my future.

## Reducing offending by Children in Care and Care Leavers Strategy

Our goal is to reduce offending by Lancashire children by....

**...parenting in a manner which makes it less likely they will offend and come into contact with the police**

Staff and carers have the knowledge and skills to parent effectively, underpinned by theory and practice in social pedagogy, restorative practice and a knowledge and understanding of trauma informed approaches

↓ Fewer children come into contact with the criminal justice system.

### We know that:

We have made good improvements in placement stability but a small number of children have to move places three or more times a year. Too many changes make it hard for children to feel they belong. We don't have enough foster carers who live in Lancashire and too many children have to live elsewhere.

**..making more use of informal resolutions when their offending does come to the attention of the police**

Youth justice system management to ensure informed joint decision-making and partnership working that avoids use of formal criminal justice sanctions wherever possible.

↑ A greater proportion of those who do come into contact with the criminal justice system are dealt with by way of informal resolution e.g. No Further Action of Community Resolution

### We know that:

Children are less likely to re-offend when their offending is dealt with informally. A restorative approach is evidenced based practice to support reducing offending behaviour and improving victim satisfaction.

**...affording children placed in out of county the same protection from the risk of criminalisation as those placed in county**

To implement the Pan Lancashire protocol to reduce criminalisation of children looked after and care leavers which includes those children placed in private placements

↑ Reduced offending by children placed out of county

### We know that:

Children placed in private placements are more susceptible to 'criminalisation' and as agencies we are less able to influence decision-making.

**...affording the same protection to children leaving care as those in care**

That care leavers are supported with regard to their vulnerability/susceptibility to offending and harmful contact with the criminal justice system

↓ Reduced offending by care leavers

### We know that:

Only a small number of children live in unsuitable accommodation. Some children require more support to live independently. Having a job, somewhere good to live and strong relationships are key to confidence

**..recognising where children's 'offending' is an indication of their need to be kept safe e.g. from child criminal and/or sexual exploitation (CCE/CSE)**

Children are safe and feel safe. Where they have 'offended' the starting point is to consider this as an indication of a safeguarding need

↓ Fewer children in care go missing and more use is made of No Further Action (NFA - not in the public interest ) in cases of offending by children known to be at risk of exploitation

### We know that:

Sometimes children go missing from their placement because they're not happy with their plans or because they're missing friends and family. Being missing means that they're at risk and not safe. It is really important that children living independently feel safe at home.