

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD WORKSHOP 16.06.2021

Notes and Outcomes



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

<h1>Objective 1</h1>	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 repressing their views in meetings and forums are heard
- Use a variety of different ways to consult with children and young people, e.g.
 - attend groups where children and young people meet
 - consider the use of Mind of My Own

LANGUAGE

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

INSIGHT AND AWARENESS

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

PREPARATION AND SUPPORT for children and young people

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

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

PARTICIPATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND FEEDBACK

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

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

IMPROVING THE LOCAL OFFER

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

IMPROVING PRESENTATION OF THE LOCAL OFFER

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

Objective 4

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

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

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

REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACT

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

EDUCATION

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

APPRENTICESHIPS

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

SUPPORT

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

MAKING WORK PAY

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

<h1>Objective 5</h1>	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

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

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

MONITORING HEALTH OUTCOMES

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

ACCESS TO EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVISIONS

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

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

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

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 16+

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

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 be provided with a report on level of training and skills within the workforce of CSC, fostering and residential (internal/external) to recognise, respond and support children and young people at risk of exploitation; ability and skills to implement preventative strategies.
- The board to be provided with a report on the education and awareness raising with young people to reduce the risk of exploitation.
- The board to be provided with a report on the profile of children going missing and a profile of the placements they go missing from to identify push/pull factors and inform sufficiency planning
- Scrutiny of how return home interviews are completed including the young person's choice of who completes this

EMBED TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE ACROSS ALL SERVICES

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