

## Lancashire County Council

### Corporate Parenting Board

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 20th September, 2022 at 6.00 pm  
in Savoy Suite 1 - The Exchange - County Hall, Preston**

**Present:       Members**

County Councillor Stephen Clarke	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Jeff Couperthwaite	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Andrea Kay	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Scott Smith	- Lancashire County Council
County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick	- Lancashire County Council
Ripley	- LINX Representative
Emma	- LINX Representative
Mary	- LINX Representative
Chris Bradley	- LINX Representative

**Co-opted members**

Audrey Swann	- Vulnerable and Looked After Children, LCC
Andreas Feldhaar	- Permanence Service, LCC
Janice Laing	- Permanence Service, LCC
Gina Power	- Permanence Service - Children in Our Care, LCC
Catherine Brooks	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, LCC
Brian Wood	- Child and Family Wellbeing Service, 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)
Hayley Kinowski	- Safeguarding, Audit and Inspection, (LCC)
Amanda Barbour	- Fostering, Adoption and Residential, LCC
Helen Hargreaves	- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (Virtual)

**Other Attendees**

Sam Gorton	- Democratic Services, LCC
Jane Hylton	- Permanence Service, LCC

Clare Smith	- Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health, LCC
Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick	- Permanence Service, LCC

## **1. Introductions and Apologies**

All were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Gibson, Brendan Lee, Moya McKinney and Julie Dawson.

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 County Councillor Howard Hartley had been appointed as Deputy Chair on the Board, replacing County Councillor Ash Sutcliffe. Thanks were noted to CC Sutcliffe for his commitment to the Board throughout his time as Deputy Chair.

The Board were informed of the passing of a former Care Leaver and member of the Corporate Parenting Board Marc Bentley.

The Board also observed a minute's silence in memory of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

## **2. Notes of the Meeting and Matters Arising from 11 May 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**

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council provided the Board with an update which included the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2026 and the Service Plan, which had been circulated with the [agenda](#) to members, prior to the meeting.

The Board were reminded that the four priorities governed the improvement outcomes for Lancashire's children and young people in care and care leavers. The eight objectives and four priorities also informed the new Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2026 and the Permanence Service Plan 2022-2026. The Strategy is now live and can be accessed via the following link <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/children-education-and-families/corporate-parenting-strategy/>.

The Board noted that in terms of the four priorities a detailed plan has been developed to look at each of the priority areas and how they are progressing and outlined were some key deliverables that are currently being worked on or have been delivered:

### **Achieving Permanence**

- Care Leaver Covenant - this work has progressed, and a report has been presented to the Education and Children's Social Care Senior Management Team and the Executive Director for Education and Children's Services and the next step is to embed the Covenant within the Council. A further update will be reported to the Board when available.
- Revised Life Story work that previously came to the Board has now been completely rolled out.
- Care Leavers Week will take place in October and an update will be given later in the meeting.
- PROUD Awards are also going to take place again in 2023 and a further update will be given later in the meeting.

### **Improving sufficiency to provide the right home at the right place**

- Lasting Homes Process and Panels have now been embedded in practice.
- National House project in Preston has seen its first young people join the project. It is a long-term project, and each year there will be another group of young people joining.
- Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers was launched in May.
- There will be Lasting Homes Panels for Leaving Care with a slightly different focus and from age 16 years, will embark on the housing pathway for young people and will include housing partners. They are not completely rolled out yet across the County, however, this work is in progress.
- The Staying Put Policy is also going to be revised as there have been changes in terms of the fostering allowances and how fostering operates, therefore it is essential that the policy is aligned to these changes.
- The National Guidance for Unregulated Placements and Supported Accommodation for 16 to 18 year olds needs to be presented at a future Board meeting as provisions could impact on what is available for 16 to 18 year olds. Ongoing work in terms of the Covenant would hopefully improve the housing provisions for young people in Lancashire.

### **Improving social, physical, emotional and mental health support and outcomes**

- A scoping exercise had previously been carried out with leisure centres in Lancashire for the Local Offer and it was noted that this is going to be reviewed again and also to request that young people can bring a friend along also for free or at a discounted rate.

- An independent living programme is also at its final stages before being rolled out through a phased implementation over a two-year period.
- [Ask Jan](#) has already been rolled out, which is a service that offers general advice and emotional well-being support to care leavers 18 to 25 years old. It has a lot of different services where young people can be referred for a minimal cost for an annual subscription, and then the young person can access all their services for free for a 12-month period.
- A partnership meeting will be convened in the near future with Heads of Services to look at the health provision for looked after children and care leavers and their pathways

### **Improving Education, Employment and Training Opportunities and Outcomes**

- A lot of work in the Service Plan for this priority is for 2023 and this is so it is aligned to the academic year to be able to embed it once young people have started school.
- In terms of the access to school and college, the aim is to ensure that where young people live, does not interfere with access to school, which can sometimes be difficult when they move homes or when they would benefit from a particular school, however, they cannot access it and there are barriers. Therefore further work needs to be done on looking at barriers and the data sharing arrangements for those children of mandatory school age that are actually not in school and this piece of work will be shared when available at a future Board meeting as it is the responsibility of everyone as a corporate parent and along with partners to look at, review, support and look for solutions for these children to enable them to access school and receive the support they need.
- Digital Access Guarantee is an area of work from the Permanence Service's perspective, to commit to ensuring that young people have online access, either via Wi-Fi or data if required. It is important as an Authority to consider how the Council can work with partners to embed a digital access guarantee for all our children, regardless of which provision they live in when they are 16 and 17 years old to make sure that the provider offer is consistent.

**Resolved:** That the Board noted the update.

#### **4. Young People's Takeover Day - 26 July 2022**

Young people from LINX (Lancashire Children in Care Council), April Rankin and Adam Riley, Participation Team, Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Lancashire County Council gave a presentation on the Corporate Parenting Board Youth Takeover Day which was held on 26 July 2022 at Hothersall Lodge.

The Board noted that young people had spent the morning session doing different activities which they reported had built their confidence and enabled

familiarisation to the environment before members of the Board joined them for the afternoon session.

A short video was shown from the day, which included quotes from young people and carers about how they found the session which included:

- It was a really good day; I had a nice time talking to all the different people that were there and I got a few helpful tips and suggestions too.
- The day was great I loved meeting other young people and different professionals like Claire from education and I liked to learn what other professionals do. Didn't like waking up early though haha.
- I had so much fun and met lots of nice people and I can't wait do it again. I especially loved the zip wire and the egg and tuna butties".
- I would say he was buzzing all the way home, he had so much fun so thank you.

Other feedback received on the day from members of the Board including young people was:

- Lovely to meet so many enthusiastic children and young people.
- Would like to see more young people attending.
- Having a focus on what needed to be discussed. What needs to be changed and why?
- Good to see our partners attending today.
- Learnt about young people's interests.
- The professionals have been very helpful, and I have gained something.
- Teamwork is really important.
- Learned to communicate with new people.
- I feel happy that our younger children have been supported to attend today.
- Met people and other professionals that I have only met online.
- I have learnt to work well in a team and communicate with others.
- Nostalgic for being a full-time youth worker.
- Get more help with dentists. Find out about apprenticeship opportunities.

The young people also reported that for future sessions, they would like to spend a full day with professionals, so they can chat more and build up relationships.

Thanks was given to members who had provided information, as requested at the last Board meeting held on 11 May 2022, where they had been asked to find a minimum of five services in their local area that support children and young people. This information will now be collated to provide an informative leaflet which can be shared with other young people in care, so they can see what is available in their area or if they move to other areas.

Following discussions with Health professionals on the day, young people were keen to have a Health Takeover Day for young people in care and care leavers which would be a range of activities including:

- What roles different health professionals have and what they do ie health workers, opticians, sexual health workers, mental health workers and GPs.
- Share information about the health passport.
- Get feedback from young people around what support they would like from Health.
- Explain what young people are entitled to from opticians, dentists etc.
- Get information regarding prescription exemptions and what they are entitled to on Universal Credit and if in employment.

Helen Hargreaves, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board requested that the information regarding health that the young people reported on, be forwarded to her, so it can be presented into the networks, and they will look at providing information as requested by the young people. It was also suggested that the different roles in the health service could also attend the Health Takeover Day and speak to the young people.

The Board thanked young people for arranging the day and for the presentation.

**Resolved:** That the Corporate Parenting Board:

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed for April Rankin to provide feedback from the young people on health, to Helen Hargreaves so that it can be shared within the Integrated Care Board networks in order to provide further information to young people as requested.

## **5. Internal Audit Review of Corporate Parenting Board**

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council provided feedback on the recent Internal Audit Review that had taken place in March 2022 of the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Board noted that the last time an Internal Audit Review had been carried out, was in 2019. The findings from 2022 was that the Board had improved, and the overall assurance rating was "Substantial" which was the best outcome for the Board.

The report had been circulated with members of the Board prior to the meeting which included further information on:

- The Executive Summary
- Background and Scope
- Summary of Audit Findings
- Action Plan
- Rating Definitions

**Resolved:** That the Board noted the Internal Audit Review and the recommendations and agreed to take them forward.

## **6. Update from the Head of the Virtual School for Children Looked After and previously Children Looked After**

Audrey Swann, Education Improvement Service, Lancashire County Council provided the Board with an update on education for Lancashire children in care and care leavers. The Board received information that had been collated over a 12-month period, following two years where very little statutory data had been produced due to the pandemic, with the exception of GCSEs.

A presentation was given to the Board and is appended to these minutes. Further detailed comparator attainment information can be found in the presentation for:

### Early Years (including Reception)

This figure fell from 2018-19 46.7% to 39.6% in 2021-22. It was noted that this was reflected nationally and is due to the impact of the pandemic. Work is ongoing within this age group to see what else can be done to improve the good level of development outcomes. There is a small increase in pupil premium that is due to be provided for children in nurseries, however, it is a very small amount of £400 over a year, compared to children in Reception and above who receive a higher amount. There is an area of work happening with Children's Social Care, which is around increasing the number of looked after children who are attending nursery on a regular basis which also helps them to be better prepared when starting school. There is also a named member of the team that specifically works and leads on early years who is working closely with providers and carers in terms of training.

### Primary: Key Stage 1

One of the first assessments that is carried out is the Phonics Test which is at the end of Year 1. Figures for 2021-22 had increased to 70.7% from 57.4% in 2020-2021 however there is still a gap between children looked after and those who are not looked after, however, despite the pandemic, those figures have increased.

At the end of Key Stage 1, reading, writing and maths combined for 2021-2022 was 22.4% which was a decrease from 2018-19 where it was 39.2% where the measure is "working at expected level".

A home reading scheme is provided for Key Stages 1 and 2 children looked after and there is also a tutorial on how to help children read at home and this will be provided to each carer and parent and can be found on the Virtual School website [The Virtual School - Lancashire County Council](#). A pilot will commence shortly with parents and carers face to face, to do some work on how to develop their young person in developing reading and writing skills.

The Board noted that all early year's children up to five years of age receive a free book every month as part of the Dolly Parton Scheme that Lancashire County Council has signed up to.

#### Primary: Key Stage 2

The Board noted that data for Key Stage 2 had also improved for reading (2018-19 - 43% compared to 2021-22 – 62.8%) and writing (2018-19 45.6% compared to 2021-22 – 50.6%). Maths has shown a slight decrease of 1% since 2018-19 to 51.2%, however, combined figures for reading, writing and maths showed an overall increase from 2018-19 - 31.1% to 2021-22 – 39.6%.

The Board were informed that following discussions with colleagues, one of the reasons that figures could have improved following the Pandemic was that learning from home may not have been as much of a challenge to those in Key Stage 2 as it was for those in Key Stage 1 and that this progress needs to be maintained and continues to improve.

#### Secondary: Key Stage 4

The Board were informed that there was currently no GCSE data for 2022 as the Data Team were still collating this information and this will be shared with the Board when available. It was noted that there were 171 young people eligible for GCSEs in 2022.

Data for Attainment 8 (average over eight GCSEs) which included two years where GCSE results were teacher assessed, had shown an increase of 6.5% since 2018-19 to 23.1% in 2020-21. Grade 4+ in English had Maths had also increased by 10.4% to 26.1% in 2020-21 and 5+ had increased by 4% from 2018-19 and the increases were higher than Lancashire's statistical neighbours. The Board were informed however, that there is still a big gap between children looked after and other young people and work is ongoing to improve attainment figures.

#### Post 16 Children in Care (Years 12 and 13)

The Board noted that these young people have to be in some form of education, employment or training after they leave school in Year 11 and were informed of what the Service have been doing over the last few years with Children's Social Care colleagues in ensuring that a young person has a plan in place before they leave school. All Years 10 and 11 looked after children in Lancashire have a named Employment Support Officer who goes into the school on a regular basis and meets individually with each young person at least once a term to discuss career information, advice and guidance about getting work experience places and forming plans with them. Figures show that since July 2020 the Intended Destinations have increased from 80% in July 2020 to 96% in July 2022. Young



people are monitored three times a year at college in October, January and June and in June 2021, 79.9% of young people were still in some form of education, employment and training and in June 2022 this had increased to 84.8%.

The Board noted that apprenticeship opportunities had reduced during the pandemic and work was underway now to increase those openings again, however the vast majority of young people in Years 12 and 13 attend further education.

For the first time this year, data was available for Intended Destinations for the end of Year 13/Key Stage 5 for what young people were planning to do when they finish Year 13. Currently there are 57 young people attending University, which also includes those that commenced prior to 2022.

### Care Leavers

It was noted that there were still too many young people post 18 who were not in education, employment or training and that this is a priority for the service. In March 2020 there were 45% of young people in education, employment and training and in March 2022 there were 52%, however the Board noted that this figure fluctuates on a daily basis. Support for young people is key to raising the % of young people in education, employment and training, particularly around illness (including mental health) and disabilities.

The Employment Support Team at Lancashire County Council works really closely with the Virtual School and individual young people up to the age of 25 years helping them to gain employment or training and there is a pre-employment online course that young people can undertake to help build their confidence and move forwards. The number of young people that were supported into employment by the Employment Support Team increased in 2021-22 to 103 from 82 the previous year. Relationships were continuing to be built with district councils and other employers, both big and small, to provide more opportunities for young people.

Following the presentation, the following issues/points were raised:

- If there is any support that the Virtual School Team requires, to please contact members of the Board.
- It is vital that the Board are sighted on this data regularly (at least annually) and challenge the Service where necessary.
- Every single child is tracked individually every term within the school on a RAG rated system and asked about progress, wellbeing and attendance is done in real-time.
- Work is also ongoing with Children's Social Care on Life Story Work and a conference is going to be held for schools so they can understand what Life Story Work is, why it is important and how they need to contribute to it.

- A template for schools who have children looked after, previously children looked after, children in need or child protection pupils is provided for school's designated teachers in order for them to complete an annual report for Governors, however, it is not mandatory, albeit good practice and members of the Board were encouraged if they are in these settings to promote this.

**Resolved:** That the Corporate Parenting Board:

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to receive the final GCSE results when available from Audrey Swann, Virtual School, Lancashire County Council.
- iii) Agreed to receive the Annual Report 2022 which will be circulated by Sam Gorton, Democratic Services, Lancashire County Council.

## **7. Children and Young People's Care Home Names**

Young people from LINX (Lancashire's Children in Care Council) had been requested by the Fostering, Adoption and Residential Service, Lancashire County Council, to decide on names for five new children and young people's care homes across Lancashire. The Board noted that it is important that young people have a say as this may be their home at some point, and to ensure that everyone has a voice and that their views are heard when looking at naming the homes. Thanks was given to the young people for their contributions on this piece of work.

The young people from LINX and the Care Leavers Forum in Lancashire had chosen various names which were presented to the Board (presentation attached), along with a brief description of the type of home it would be, in which area of Lancashire and the reasoning behind as to how the young people had decided on the various names.

Following the vote, the Board agreed that the top five names were as follows:

- i) Sunflower
- ii) Red Rose
- iii) Sunshine
- iv) Lavender
- v) Oak

Young people would now go back to their participation groups and choose the name endings ie home, house, lodge or manor and allocate them to one of the five homes and then report back to the Adoption, Fostering and Residential Service on their choices.

**Resolved:** That the Corporate Parenting Board agreed on names for five new young people's care homes in Lancashire, following a selection of names provided by young people.

## **8. Care Leavers Week**

Jane Hylton and Aaron Walmsley-Fishwick, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council gave a presentation on the National Care Leavers Week 2022 (as attached).

The Board were informed that this will take place w/c 24 October 2022 and end with celebration events on 27-28 October 2022 and a programme of events was outlined.

The Board were asked for support/donations for gifts and prizes for the event on 27 October 2022 and to contact Jane Hylton, email [jane.hylton@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hylton@lancashire.gov.uk) by 15 October 2022 regarding this.

**Resolved:** That the Board noted the request and the programme of events for the National Care Leavers Week 2022.

## **9. PROUD Awards 2023**

Janice Laing, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council informed the Board that the PROUD Celebration Event for all Looked After Children and Care Experienced young people would be held on the evening of 30 March 2023 at Burnley Football Club. This will be the first time the event has taken place since 2019 due to the pandemic.

A brief presentation was given (as attached) and the Board informed that a Task and Finish Group had been convened to plan the event.

The Board noted that nominations would commence before Christmas and that the categories would be:

**Positive Choices and Achievements**  
**Responding to the Needs of Others**  
**Outstanding Service to the Community**  
**UR Talented**  
**Danny Collins Inspiration Award**

Once further information was available, this would be shared with the Board for promotion.

Again, raffle donations will be gratefully received for the evening and to contact Janice Laing, email [Janice.laing@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.laing@lancashire.gov.uk) if any further information is required.

**Resolved:** That the Board noted the event date, request for raffle donations and the request to promote the event and encourage nominations.

## **10. Future agenda items**

Andreas Feldhaar, Permanence Service, Lancashire County Council presented the attached presentation which detailed future potential agenda items (as well as the standing items), that would appear on agendas at future Board meetings.

Two areas that were highlighted as a priority for the next meeting was Performance Data which the Board had not received since March 2021 and had been addressed in the Internal Audit Review and a Health Take-Over which includes the provisions and changes in health and this follows on from the young people's take-over meeting in July where young people asked about what health services are available to young people in the community and requested that they come to a future meeting to present more detailed information on this.

Amanda Barbour, Fostering, Adoption and Residential Services, Lancashire County Council informed the Board that it was a requirement that the Adoption and Fostering Service present their Annual Reports to the Board and that this should be factored in as a statutory requirement. As the reports are both significantly long, the proposal to the Board was that an Executive Summary Report is produced for both Annual Reports and will also contain a link to the full reports, along with a presentation to ensure the item is engaging for young people.

**Resolved:** That the Corporate Parenting Board:

- i) Agreed to add the Annual Reports for Fostering and Adoption to be added to the forward plan.
- ii) Agreed to receive an Executive Summary with a link to the detailed reports for both the Fostering and Adoption Annual Reports.
- iii) Agreed the priorities for the next meeting as Performance Data and Health Take-Over.

## **11. Any Other Business**

There was not any other business received.

## **12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 6pm, Savoy Suite 2, The Exchange, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8RJ.