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| **LANCASHIRE CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE**  **Young People Leaving Care – lasting homes panel**  **TERMS OF REFERENCE** |

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| **Purpose of Leaving Care -lasting homes panel** |
| Lancashire's 'Young People Leaving Care – lasting homes panel' forms part of Lancashire's Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers and will ensure that our young people have plans in place to enable them to access homes in adulthood that meet their needs and provide stability.  The Leaving Care Lasting Homes Panel is multi-agency in representation with the function of reviewing all Children in our Care from the age of 16 to ensure long term options/plans are in place, with key stakeholders providing options and guiding pathways to achieving the young person's preferred form of accommodation.  A secondary function of the Leaving Care Lasting Homes Panel will be to support in planning for young people, who are over the age of 18, who have been threatened with homelessness or are homeless. |
| **Responsibilities of Leaving Care -lasting homes panel** |
| The Leaving Care – Lasting Homes Panel is responsible for:   * Providing realistic long term housing options for young people * Identify barriers to achieving permanence in adulthood * Setting clear, realistic timescales for action   Each individual panel member also has individual responsibilities:  Children's Social Care, Children in Our Care, Team Managers have responsibility to oversee the pathway planning for individual young people who remain in our care.  Children's Social Care, Leaving Care Service, Team Managers have responsibility to oversee the pathway planning for individual young people who have left our care and to contribute to the planning of those who remain in our care.  Housing Authority representatives have responsibility for providing relevant information pertaining to access to housing and housing options for the individual young people presented at panel.  Supported accommodation provider representatives have responsibility for providing information about their schemes and how they can meet individual young people's needs.  Fostering/Residential Service representatives have responsibility to support planning around preparation for independence.  The Independent Reviewing Officer representative (Quality and Assurance Manager) has a key role in providing the Panel with advice and challenge to the plan and ensuring the voice of the child's Independent Reviewing Officer are shared.  The Access to Resources Team have a role to ensure that the placement is providing evidence-based outcomes and high standards of care/support. It is also important for the Access to Resources Team to provide financial information to Panel to ensure that appropriate and robust challenge and scrutiny can be made over placement costs, and any placement searches proportionately expedited in relation to individual need/risk. They will also provide information regarding potential move-on options for young people preparing to leave their care placement. |
| **Membership** |
| Leaving Care – Lasting Homes Panel will ordinarily be chaired by Children's Social Care, Leaving Care Service, Senior Manager, however local variations may be applied, and in some instances Children's Social Care Team Manager will chair the Panel  It is expected that all partners are represented for each Panel, or that deputy arrangements are in place should a Panel member be unable to attend.  The core membership of LC – Lasting Homes Panel includes:   * Children's Social Care, Leaving Care Service, Senior Manager * Children's Social care, Team Manager and Allocated Social Worker (care planning responsibility) * Children's Social Care, Leaving Care Service, Team Manager and allocated Personal Advisor * Housing Authority representatives * Local supported accommodation provider representatives * Fostering Manager * Residential Services Manager * Access to Resources representative * Child and Youth Justice Service   The above list is not exhaustive and local decisions may be taken to extend Panel member to include, for example   * Family Group Conferencing Services * Leaving Care Service * Foster Carer representative * Young person representative * Outreach services * External providers * Advocacy   There may be occasions when additional ad-hoc attendance is required by colleagues in different teams/departments/agencies to address a specific issue  The meeting is administratively supported by Children's Social Care Case Support |
| **Frequency of meetings** |
| Leaving Care Lasting Homes Panels will be held at a frequency of at least bi-monthly.  Panels will ordinarily be held for a half a day, however local variations may be applied to meet local need. Every effort will be made to hold panels at a time that is convenient for our children and young people to attend.  Panel agenda's will be distributed prior to each LC – Lasting Homes Panel to all core, and agreed additional Panel members. |
| **Expected preparation prior to Panel** |
| Children's Social Care  It is expected that the child/young person's case summary is updated on their case file prior to presentation at panel  It is expected that the record of the last multi agency Looked After Children care planning meeting record is available on the child/young person's file  The social worker need obtain consent from the young person to share these documents with panel members and for their case to be heard at panel. The social worker needs to invite the young person to panel, if they do not wish to attend their views need to be sought and shared during panel.  The relevant Case Support officer is expected to retrieve the case summary (excluding the 'why we are involved' section), record of last multiagency Looked After Children care planning record by of submitting the young person's name to the agenda of the panel.  Housing Authority  It is expected that the Housing Authority representative will provide current information on housing options.  Access to Resources (ART)  It is expected that the ART representative obtains relevant information from the child/young person's placement to share at Panel and information regarding availability and suitability of future accommodation/placement options.  Fostering and Residential  It is expected that the Fostering and Residential representative obtain relevant information from the child/young person's placement and support to develop independence skills to share at Panel. |
| **Format and structure of meetings** |
| A fully prepared agenda will be made available for all attendee's at least five working days prior to each Leaving Care – Last Homes Panel  Within the agenda, the young people being discussed will be included. Each young person will allocate a time slot, which will be closely adhered to for the benefit of our young people. |

TEMPLATE AGENDA

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| PERMANENCE PANEL  AGENDA | |
| Date of panel |  |
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| Expectations |
| It is expected that attendance is prioritised by all social workers  It is expected that social work managers will attend if the allocated social worker is unable to attend  It is expected that all Panel members attend each panel or send a representative  It is expected that all Panel members attend prepared  It is expected that the agenda will be made available at least five working days prior to each meeting  It is expected that a brief record of the panel discussion and actions agreed, are recorded on the child's file by case Support within 5 working days |