

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **24 July 2009**
Title of Report: **Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter**

Recommendation: **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report**

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Services for looked after children are funded from the Children's Services base budget, supplemented by the Care Matters Grant.

2. Supporting information

2.1 LAC Statistics are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Between February – May, the upward trend in the number of looked after children has continued. During this quarter, the number of children in foster care has increased by 17, of whom 16 are placed with in house foster carers. This has put considerable pressure on the fostering service which is close to full capacity.

2.3 The other significant change is a reduction of 9 in the number of children placed with prospective adopters. This is due to adoption orders being granted for several children. However, reasons for the apparent delay in making new placements are being investigated.

2.4 The number of children subject to a care order placed with their parents has dropped below 20 for the first time in several years. These placements are monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors.

2.5 The number of children subject to residence orders or special guardianship orders has increased by 6 in the past 3 months, continuing the overall upward trend.

2.6 The heavy demand for parent and child placements continues, with 13 placed at the end of May (5 in house and 8 in agency placements).

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 The Panel is recommended to note the report.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

