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.

MATT DUNKLEY Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Helen Davies, Deputy Director, Children and Families, Tel: 01273 481274

Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

## CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AS AT MONTH END DATE

Accommodation Type	<u>Jun-08</u>	<u>Jul-08</u>	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	<u>Jan-09</u>	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09
Foster Placements	361	358	368	368	354	352	355	353	358	374	378	375
Of these:												
In House fostercarers	266	262	265	266	245	245	242	242	245	258	265	261
Kinship fostercarers	46	46	51	52	52	52	60	61	63	61	60	62
Agency fostercarers	49	50	52	<i>50</i>	57	55	53	50	50	55	53	52
Placed For Adoption	14	17	21	22	26	33	35	33	34	27	27	25
Lodgings	2	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
ESCC Residential	18	18	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	17	17	19
Other Residential	5	6	6	5	4	4	5	7	7	7	8	9
Special Education	15	15	15	17	18	18	15	13	12	12	13	13
Placed With Parent	21	21	21	20	25	26	24	24	23	18	18	18
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital/NHS Establishment	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2
Total	436	439	453	455	450	458	459	455	460	461	468	467
Legal Status Type	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	<u>Jan-09</u>	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09
Residence Orders	91	97	101	104	106	111	114	116	114	117	118	119
Special Guardianship Orders	9	14	13	13	13	13	12	13	13	13	13	14
Total	100	111	114	117	119	124	126	129	127	130	131	133
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