

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **23 October 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**

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

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## **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 May – August, 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 23, of whom 10 are placed with in house foster carers. This has put considerable pressure on the fostering service which is close to full capacity, resulting in an increase of 9 agency fostering placements.

2.3 The other significant change is a reduction of 10 in the number of children placed with prospective adopters. This is due to adoption orders being granted for several children. Reasons for the apparent delay in making new placements have been investigated, and a number of adoption matches have been presented to Panel in September, with several more booked for October – December.

2.4 The number of children subject to a care order placed with their parents remains below 20. 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 15 in the past 3 months, continuing the overall upward trend.

2.6 The heavy demand for parent and child placements continues, with 10 placed at the end of August (5 in house and 5 in agency placements).

2.7 At the end of August, there were 7 children living in either Acorns or the Bungalow. This number has now reduced to 4.

## **3. Conclusion and recommendation**

3.1 The Panel is recommended to note the report.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

