

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **23 April 2010**
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 The most recent LAC Statistics are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Between January–March 2010, the upward trend in the number of LAC has continued with a rise of 53 children in the year since March 09. This is in line with the wider experience nationally.

2.3 During this quarter, the number of children in foster care has increased by 15, of whom 6 are placed with in house foster carers. There is one fewer child with kinship carers. The pressure on the fostering service has continued and it is now at full capacity on some days, resulting in an increase of 10 agency fostering placements in this period.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen slightly once again but has not regained the level seen at the beginning of the year as yet. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children and activity at panel remains steady.

2.4 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents stands at 19. 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 remained stable over the past quarter at 168.

2.6 The heavy demand for parent and child placements continues, with 7 placed at the end of March (3 in house and 4 in agency placements).

2.7 At the end of March, there was only one child living in either Acorns or the Bungalow on a full time basis and planning is underway to move him to a suitable alternative.

2.8 During this period 2 East Sussex children have been subject to secure orders on welfare grounds with both of them secured in in-house provision at Lansdowne.

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 The Panel is recommended to note the report.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommodation Type	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
Foster Placements	378	375	391	400	398	399	406	413	413	415	426	428
<i>Of these:</i>												
<i>In House fostercarers</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>276</i>	<i>271</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>291</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>297</i>
<i>Kinship fostercarers</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Agency fostercarers</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>69</i>
Placed For Adoption	27	25	18	13	15	12	16	14	15	17	19	20
Lodgings	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1
ESCC Residential	17	19	19	20	23	24	24	23	24	23	22	19
Other Residential	8	9	9	8	8	9	9	11	10	10	10	10
Special Education	13	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	14	16
Placed With Parent	18	18	14	16	16	14	15	15	18	19	18	19
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital/NHS Establishment	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3
Total	468	467	471	476	479	478	490	494	499	504	514	517