

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **22 October 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 June - September 2010, the upward trend in the number of LAC has continued with an overall rise of 11 children in this quarter, albeit it that September's overall figure is marginally lower than that in August. This rise is in line with the wider experience nationally, although East Sussex actually has a slightly lower rate of 50.1 children per 10,000 against 58 per 10,000 nationally, according to the latest national data published in September 2010 (but based on March 2010 figures).

2.3 During this quarter, the total number of children in foster care has increased by 11, with some additional movement of children already in care resulting in 13 additional placements with in house foster carers being made. The pressure on the fostering service has continued although activity on placements has been very robust and has secured an overall increase of only 2 agency fostering placements at the end of this period, again with higher figures in both July and August. There has been a reduction of four children with kinship carers.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has dropped by 1 over this period. 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 17. 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 to 190 over this quarter, a rise of 10 children.

2.6 The heavy demand for parent and child placements continues. At the end of June we had 8 parent and baby placements provided by independent fostering providers and 2 provided in house by East Sussex parent and baby foster carers.

2.7 Acorns currently has 4 children in full time placement and the Bungalow has 3 children. This stems from various reasons and is also a response to the drive to keep budget pressures for the overall service down by avoiding the need for expensive external agency placements. Planning is underway for all of the children.

2.8 During this period 3 East Sussex children have been subject to secure orders on welfare grounds with two of them secured in in-house provision at Lansdowne and one in West Sussex.

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 Pressure on the system remains very intense and 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

LAC DATA

Accommodation Type	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
Foster Placements	406	413	413	415	426	428	448	454	452	458	465	463
<i>Of these:</i>												
<i>In House fostercarers</i>	275	284	291	296	300	297	307	310	306	304	317	319
<i>Kinship fostercarers</i>	67	66	63	62	62	62	64	61	64	68	61	60
<i>Agency fostercarers</i>	64	63	59	57	64	69	77	83	82	86	87	84
Placed For Adoption	16	14	15	17	19	20	19	19	19	17	19	18
Lodgings	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
ESCC Residential	24	23	24	23	22	19	21	21	21	21	22	21
Other Residential	9	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	13
Special Education	14	14	15	15	14	16	16	16	15	15	14	13
Placed With Parent	15	15	18	19	18	19	17	17	18	17	17	17
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital/NHS Establishment	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	2
Total	490	494	499	504	514	517	535	540	538	541	553	549

Legal Status Type	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10
Residence Orders	134	138	141	140	140	138	140	140	144	146	146	145
Special Guardianship Orders	28	28	27	28	26	30	32	35	36	40	44	45
Total	162	166	168	168	166	168	172	175	180	186	190	190