

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **28 January 2011**

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 and congratulate staff on the good inspection outcomes**

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 September and December 2010, the upward trend in the number of LAC has been resumed with an overall rise of 19 children in this quarter. This rise is in line with the wider experience nationally.

2.3 During this quarter, the total number of children in foster care has increased by 10, with 2 additional placements with in house foster carers at the end of the quarter after a higher peak in October. The pressure on the fostering service has continued, although activity on placements has continued to be very robust. After higher use of agency placements in November, the figure of 84 has been achieved once again. Clearly this is still higher than we would like and puts pressure on budgets. There has been a rise of 8 children with kinship carers.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen slightly over this period. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children and activity at panel remains steady.

2.5 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has also risen slightly to 20. These placements are monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors.

2.6 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 14, with 12 additional children being subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 A separate report on parent and child placements has been prepared for panel.

2.8 Full time placements in both Acorns and the Bungalow continue as a response to a combination of individual family situations and ongoing budget pressures. There are currently 4 children living in Acorns and 2 in the Bungalow.

2.9 During this period 3 East Sussex children have been subject to secure orders on welfare grounds with two secured in in-house provision at Lansdowne and one in West Sussex. Two further young people have unfortunately being remanded by the Courts following serious criminal charges.

2.10 Members will be aware that during this period the Announced Ofsted Inspection for Safeguarding and LAC has taken place with an overall judgement that services for LAC in East Sussex are good with some outstanding features. The service was judged as being highly ambitious for LAC and the

commitment to the task of Corporate Parenting was commended and seen to be well established. Elected members were acknowledged as providing good support to the service.

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 Pressure on the system remains very intense but overall staff are responding well. The Panel is recommended to note the report and to congratulate staff on the good inspection outcomes.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommodation Type	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Foster Placements	415	426	428	448	454	452	458	465	463	468	468	473
<i>Of these:</i>												
<i>In House fostercarers</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>304</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>321</i>
<i>Kinship fostercarers</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Agency fostercarers</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>84</i>
Placed For Adoption	17	19	20	19	19	19	17	19	18	20	22	20
Lodgings	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	5	4
ESCC Residential	23	22	19	21	21	21	21	22	21	19	15	17
Other Residential	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	13	11	11	13
Special Education	15	14	16	16	16	15	15	14	13	14	15	15
Placed With Parent	19	18	19	17	17	18	17	17	17	18	17	20
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital/NHS												
Establishment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	3	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	4	6	5
Total	504	514	517	535	540	538	541	553	549	556	560	568

Legal Status Type	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Residence Orders	140	140	138	140	140	144	146	146	145	148	158	159
Special Guardianship Orders	28	26	30	32	35	36	40	44	45	48	53	57
Total	168	166	168	172	175	180	186	190	190	196	211	216