

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **20 May 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**

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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 The most recent LAC Statistics are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Between January and March 2011, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC has continued with an increase of 17 children in this quarter. This is a marginal decrease in the overall rise in the last quarter when the figure was 19.

2.3 During this quarter, the total number of children in foster care has increased by 9, with 13 additional placements with in house foster carers at the end of the quarter. It is also striking that in the year April 2010-March 2011 there have been 27 more placements with in house carers. More comment is made about this rise in the Annual Report from the Fostering Service. There is one fewer agency placement at the end of this quarter. There has also been a decrease of 3 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.

2.5 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has also risen significantly. These placements should be monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and a piece of work is currently underway to review all of the placements and ensure that they are both safe and legally compliant.

2.6 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 5 with 7 additional children being subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 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 2 children living in Acorns and 2 in the Bungalow, with a further 4 children, 2 in each unit, having shared care packages in that they spend part of each week with their family.

2.8 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.

## **3. Conclusion and recommendation**

3.1 Pressure on the system remains very intense but overall staff are responding well. The annual reports for both the Adoption and Fostering services give a fuller picture of activity.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>Apr-10</b>	<b>May-10</b>	<b>Jun-10</b>	<b>Jul-10</b>	<b>Aug-10</b>	<b>Sep-10</b>	<b>Oct-10</b>	<b>Nov-10</b>	<b>Dec-10</b>	<b>Jan-11</b>	<b>Feb-11</b>	<b>Mar-11</b>
Foster Placements	448	454	452	458	465	463	468	468	473	472	476	482
<i>Of these:</i>												
<i>In House fostercarers</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>328</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>334</i>
<i>Kinship fostercarers</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>64</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Agency fostercarers</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>	<i>80</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>83</i>
Placed For Adoption	19	19	19	17	19	18	20	22	20	22	22	21
Independent Living	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	5	4	3	3	3
ESCC Residential	21	21	21	21	22	21	19	15	17	15	15	18
Other Residential	10	10	10	10	11	13	11	11	13	14	14	15
Special Education	16	16	15	15	14	13	14	15	15	15	13	13
Placed With Parent	17	17	18	17	17	17	18	17	20	25	31	27
Hospital/NHS Establishment	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	2	1	2	1	2	2	4	6	5	6	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>585</b>

<b>Legal Status Type</b>	<b>Apr-10</b>	<b>May-10</b>	<b>Jun-10</b>	<b>Jul-10</b>	<b>Aug-10</b>	<b>Sep-10</b>	<b>Oct-10</b>	<b>Nov-10</b>	<b>Dec-10</b>	<b>Jan-11</b>	<b>Feb-11</b>	<b>Mar-11</b>
Residence Orders	140	140	144	146	146	145	148	158	159	163	163	164
Special Guardianship Orders	32	35	36	40	44	45	48	53	57	60	62	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>228</b>