

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **15 July 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.**

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. Clearly rising LAC numbers are putting the available budgets under intense pressure.

2. Supporting information

2.1 The most recent LAC Statistics are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Between April and June 2011, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC has continued with a large increase of 33 children in this quarter. This is almost twice the increase shown in the last quarter.

2.3 During this quarter, the total number of children in foster care has increased by 35, with 16 additional placements with in house foster carers at the end of the quarter. There are 13 additional agency foster placements at the end of this quarter. There has also been an increase of 6 children with kinship carers.

2.3 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.

2.4 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has dropped steadily over the quarter, possibly as the result of some strengthened review of individual children following a previous rise in numbers. These placements should always be monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors.

2.5 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 3 with 18 additional children being subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.6 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 still 4 children living in Acorns and 1 child 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 4 East Sussex children have been subject to secure orders on welfare grounds with all 4 currently secured in in-house provision at Lansdowne.

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 Pressure on the system remains very intense but overall staff are responding well. As yet we can see no sign of overall numbers having reached a plateau.

MATT DUNKLEY

Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommodation Type	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11
Foster Placements	458	465	463	468	468	473	472	476	482	496	496	517
<i>Of these:</i>												
<i>In House fostercarers</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>339</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>350</i>
<i>Kinship fostercarers</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>65</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>Agency fostercarers</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>	<i>92</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>96</i>
Placed For Adoption	17	19	18	20	22	20	22	22	21	19	19	24
Independent Living	1	1	1	1	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
ESCC Residential	21	22	21	19	15	17	15	15	18	19	19	18
Other Residential	10	11	13	11	11	13	14	14	15	16	15	17
Special Education	15	14	13	14	15	15	15	13	13	12	11	11
Placed With Parent	17	17	17	18	17	20	25	31	27	26	23	20
Hospital/NHS Establishment	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2
Prison Estab/Secure Unit	1	2	2	4	6	5	6	6	4	6	7	6
Total	541	553	549	556	560	568	573	581	585	599	594	618

Legal Status Type	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-10	Jun-11
Residence Orders	146	146	145	148	158	159	163	163	164	167	168	167
Special Guardianship Orders	40	44	45	48	53	57	60	62	64	68	80	82
Total	186	190	190	196	211	216	223	225	228	235	248	249