

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **27 April 2012**
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:
Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget, supplemented by the Early Intervention Grant. Clearly rising LAC numbers have been putting the available budgets under intense pressure and this forms a core rationale for the Thrive Transformation Programme that is underway.

2. Supporting Information

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

2.2 Between January and the end of March 2012, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC appears to have resumed with three more children at the end of the quarter, although figures are still hovering around the 620 level, as they have been now for the past 10 months.

2.3 At the end of the quarter, the total number of children in foster care has decreased by six, with four more placements with in house foster carers at the end of the quarter. There were five fewer agency foster placements at the end of this quarter. There has also been a decrease of eight children with kinship carers. There were three parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by seven. 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 increased by two at the end of the quarter. These placements are always monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and agreement to the placement is given at a senior level.

2.6 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by two with seven additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 In the Bungalow there are three young people who are resident on a full time basis and a further three at Acorns.

2.8 At the end of the quarter two East Sussex children were subject to secure orders and placed at Lansdowne on welfare grounds with a further young person secured and placed at Beechfield in West Sussex.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and also within the overall Thrive programme. As yet we are not seeing overall reductions but it may be that we are seeing a degree of stability as we consider numbers over the past year.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: None

Accommodation Type	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Total Foster Placements	496	496	517	525	516	520	523	520	521	515	512	515
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>326</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>118</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</i>					<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>										<i>11</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>
Placed For Adoption	19	19	24	23	21	21	20	24	27	30	33	34
Bed & Breakfast	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	1
Supported People Accommodation	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	2
Residential - East Sussex Home	19	19	18	17	14	14	16	16	16	15	18	19
Residential - Agency Residential Care	16	15	17	19	20	21	20	15	14	20	18	18
Residential - Schools	12	11	11	11	10	10	9	11	10	6	6	5
Residential - Secure	3	3	3	4	5	6	5	5	5	4	4	4
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	3	4	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
Placed With Parent	26	23	20	20	22	22	25	22	18	17	19	20
Hospital/Health Setting	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	3
Total	599	594	618	626	615	620	624	620	619	617	620	622

Legal Status Type	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12
Residence Orders	167	168	167	166	166	168	168	174	173	173	173	175
Special Guardianship Orders	68	80	82	85	90	92	99	117	122	124	128	129
Total	235	248	249	251	256	260	267	291	295	297	301	304

