

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **13 July 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 (Q1 – 2012/13)**

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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 LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget, supplemented by the Early Intervention Grant and supported with transformation money agreed within the Thrive budget. 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 April and the end of June 2012, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC appears to have resumed with 13 more children at the end of the quarter.

2.3 At the end of the quarter, the total number of children in foster care has remained stable at 515, with 12 fewer placements with in house foster carers at the end of the quarter. This is mirrored by 12 more agency foster placements at the end of this quarter. There has also been an increase of 4 children with kinship carers. There were 3 parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by 10. 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 remained stable at 20 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 7, with 27 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 At the end of June there were three young people resident in the Bungalow on a full time basis and a further 3 at Acorns.

2.8 At the end of the quarter no East Sussex children were subject to secure orders.

## **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

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 in LAC but we are seeing reductions at significant points earlier in the system, for example a reduction of 50 children subject to CP plans over the quarter. It is likely that any reduction in LAC numbers will take longer to achieve.

MATT DUNKLEY  
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families  
Tel: 01273 481274

Local Members: All  
Background Documents: NONE



<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>Jul-11</b>	<b>Aug-11</b>	<b>Sep-11</b>	<b>Oct-11</b>	<b>Nov-11</b>	<b>Dec-11</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Feb-12</b>	<b>Mar-12</b>	<b>Apr-12</b>	<b>May-12</b>	<b>Jun-12</b>
Total Foster Placements	525	516	520	523	520	521	515	512	515	511	515	515
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</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>324</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>314</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</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>56</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</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>120</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>130</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent &amp; 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>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>							<i>11</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>
Placed For Adoption	23	21	21	20	24	27	30	33	34	41	40	44
Bed & Breakfast	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	0	2	4
Supported People Accommodation	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	2	4	4	3
Independent Living											4	4
Residential - East Sussex Home	17	14	14	16	16	16	15	18	19	20	18	16
Residential - Agency Residential Care	19	20	21	20	15	14	20	18	18	19	21	21
Residential - Schools	11	10	10	9	11	10	6	6	5	5	5	6
Residential - Secure	4	5	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	1	0	0
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0
Placed With Parent	20	22	22	25	22	18	17	19	20	19	15	20
Hospital/Health Setting	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>635</b>

<b>Legal Status Type</b>	<b>Jul-11</b>	<b>Aug-11</b>	<b>Sep-11</b>	<b>Oct-11</b>	<b>Nov-11</b>	<b>Dec-11</b>	<b>Jan-12</b>	<b>Feb-12</b>	<b>Mar-12</b>	<b>Apr-12</b>	<b>May-12</b>	<b>Jun-12</b>
Residence Orders	166	166	168	168	174	173	173	173	175	168	169	182
Special Guardianship Orders	85	90	92	99	117	122	124	128	129	137	142	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>338</b>

