

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **19 October 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**

Recommendations: **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to (1) note the contents of the report; and**
(2) consider a report on the development of accommodation options for careleavers at the January 2013 meeting.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget and supported with transformation money agreed within the Thrive budget.

2. Supporting information

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

2.2 Between July and the end of September 2012, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC appears to have been reversed with 23 fewer children overall at the end of the quarter.

2.3 At the end of the quarter, the total number of children in foster care has reduced to 493, with 6 fewer placements with in house foster carers and 4 fewer agency placements. There has also been a decrease of 11 children with kinship carers. There was 1 parent and baby placement.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has fallen by 2. 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 fallen by 3 to 17 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 9, with 23 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 At the end of September there were 3 young people resident at The Bungalow and 2 at Acorns (one of these is a young man who is there for a short-term assessment).

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

2.9 Numbers of young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation have risen in the past quarter. This is the result of a number of young people having exhausted other options following difficult behaviour. It is also the case that some young people will choose this option despite advice; the task then becomes to wrap a support package around them. On occasion expensive agency placements have been ended when young people are not using them productively. It is important however to keep numbers and individual situations under review by senior staff to ensure that good plans are in place as far as possible. Further work is currently underway to increase accommodation options for careleavers

3. Conclusion and recommendation

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and also within the overall Thrive programme. We may be beginning to see overall LAC numbers reducing. However in that this is offset by a significant rise in children subject to both Residence Orders and to Special Guardianship Orders, there will be ongoing financial expenditure in respect of that group of children, albeit at a lower level than if the children were to enter or remain in the care system. It is also the case that although this offers very positive permanent outcomes for some individual children it effectively takes some foster carers ' off the books' in terms of offering other placements.

3.2 Given that the use of bed and breakfast placements has risen it is recommended that the CPP receives and considers a report on the development of accommodation options for careleavers at the January 2013 meeting.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommodation Type	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Total Foster Placements	523	520	521	515	512	515	511	515	515	511	503	493
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</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>313</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>308</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</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>55</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</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>126</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</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>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</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>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>
Placed For Adoption	20	24	27	30	33	34	41	40	44	41	39	42
Bed & Breakfast	2	2	3	3	1	1	0	2	4	3	5	6
Supported People Accommodation	2	2	2	4	4	2	4	4	3	5	8	9
Independent Living								4	4	4	2	1
Residential - East Sussex Home	16	16	16	15	18	19	20	18	16	17	17	18
Residential - Agency Residential Care	20	15	14	20	18	18	19	21	21	22	19	16
Residential - Schools	9	11	10	6	6	5	5	5	6	7	7	7
Residential - Secure	5	5	5	4	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Placed With Parent	25	22	18	17	19	20	19	15	20	19	17	17
Hospital/Health Setting	1	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3
Total	624	620	619	617	620	622	624	627	635	632	621	612

Legal Status Type	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
Residence Orders	168	174	173	173	173	175	168	169	182	185	190	191
Special Guardianship Orders	99	117	122	124	128	129	137	142	156	166	168	179
Total	267	291	295	297	301	304	305	311	338	351	358	370

