

Report to: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of meeting : 19 October 2012

By: Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children

Title of report: Annual Participation and Consultation Summary Report in Relation to Looked After Children 2012

Purpose of report: Outline key messages in relation to LAC that have emerged from recent engagement with children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION: The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

1. Financial appraisal

1.1 The financial impact depends on whether the actions taken in response to this have financial implications.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Every year the department carries out a range of consultation and engagement activities to gather the views of children, young people and parents. These are summarised annually in order to reflect on key messages that are emerging so that these can be considered when planning, commissioning and reviewing services.

In relation to Looked After Children a number of points were noted:

1. Young people and parents value being involved in service development and decision making about things that concern them
2. Young people turn to their parents and foster carers for support
3. Looked After Children are happy in their placement, happy with the care they receive and think that coming into care was the right thing for them

The Annual Participation and Consultation Summary Report in Relation to Looked After Children 2012 is attached as Appendix 1

3. Recommendation

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

Contact Officer: Charlotte Papworth, Public Engagement Officer: 01323 747462

Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: none

Appendix 1

Annual Participation and Consultation Report in relation to Looked After Children 2012

1.1 This report summarises some of the key messages in relation to Looked After Children (LAC) that came from the Children's Rights Director's Annual Monitoring Report 2011. 74 children and young people accessing East Sussex social care services, aged between 6 and 18, with an average age of 12 years old, completed the nationally run survey monitoring children's views and experience. 92% of them were being looked after by foster carers. The on-line survey was promoted to children and young people by the Children in Care Council (CiCC) Coordinator, Placement Support Workers, in the residential units and by the Children's Disability Team.

1.2 Key messages identified in the report:

- **Young people and parents value being involved in decision making about things that concern them**
- **Young people turn to their parents and foster carers for support**
- **Looked After Children are happy in their placement, happy with the care they receive and think that coming into care was the right thing for them**

The report will now explain these messages in more detail.

2. Young People value being involved in decision making that concerns them

2.1 52% of children and young people in East Sussex feel their opinions make a difference to the decisions that affect them. This largely mirrors the national figure of 53%. However in East Sussex more children want more of a say over contact.

2.2 A third of Looked After Children in East Sussex don't know if they have a care plan or what this is; or if they had one what was in it. Only 37% of those with one said they had a say in what was in it compared with 60% nationally. Although, the majority (63%) said they agreed with what was in their care plan.

If you HAVE a care plan did you have a say in what is in it?

Say in care plan?	National		East Sussex	
	No of YP	%	No of YP	%
Yes	506	60	15	37
Some	192	23	11	27
No	142	17	15	37
Total	840	100	41	100

2.3 LAC in East Sussex report having less choice in placements than nationally - 76% said they didn't have a choice compared with 57% nationally.

The LAST time you moved to live in a new placement, was there a choice of different placement for you?

The LAST time you moved to live in a new placement, was there a choice of different placement for you?	National		East Sussex	
	No of YP	%	No of YP	%
No	611	57	42	76
Not Sure	241	23	8	15
Yes	219	20	5	9
Total	1071	100	55	100

3. Young people turn to their foster carers for support

3.1 Children and young people in East Sussex involved with social care are most likely to turn to a foster carer if they didn't feel safe than children nationally who say they would most likely to turn to a friend. Children in East Sussex are also more likely to turn to a teacher or social worker than nationally.

WHO YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD GO TO FOR HELP IF THEY DIDN'T FEEL SAFE:-

Go to for help	National		East Sussex	
	No of YP (1865)	%	No of YP (74)	%
Police	1020	55	42	57
Teacher	1023	55	52	70
Parent	940	51	35	47
Foster Carer	960	52	62	84
Staff who look after me where I live	582	31	13	18
Brother or sister	733	39	27	36
someone else in my family	702	38	30	41
A friend	1065	57	43	58
An older CYP	266	14	12	16
The person in charge of where I am	466	25	19	26
Social worker	919	50	52	70
Advocate	224	12	12	16
Telephone helpline	269	14	10	14
Religious Leader	91	5	3	4
Nobody	60	3	1	1

4. Looked After Children (LAC) are happy in their placement, happy with the care they receive and think that coming into care was the right thing for them

4.1 92% of LAC in East Sussex said the care they received was good or very good.

If YES, how good is the care you are getting at the moment?

How good is the care you are getting?	National		East Sussex	
	No of YP	%	No of YP	%
Very good	827	64	50	71
Good	307	24	15	21
Just about OK	116	9	5	7
Bad	19	1	0	0
Very bad	15	1	0	0
Total	1284	100	70	100

4.2 The majority 69% in East Sussex and nationally felt coming into care was right for them at the time. 80% in East Sussex feel it is right for them now compared with 71% nationally.

Do you think coming into care was right for you at the time?

Do you think coming into care was right for you at the time?	National		East Sussex	
	No of YP	%	No of YP	%
Yes	880	69	48	69
Not Sure	239	19	15	21
No	163	13	7	10
Total	1282	100	70	100

4.3 89% of LAC in East Sussex say their placement is right for them and they think this because they are safe and well looked after, happy and settled, 73% said their last move in placement had been in their best interests and 72% said they were treated the same as the foster carers own children, 9% said they weren't.