

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **18 January 2013**

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 note the contents of the report.**

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 the end of September and the end of December 2012, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC appears to have been reversed and LAC numbers have stabilised with 1 less child overall at the end of the quarter.

2.3 At the end of the quarter, the total number of children in foster care has increased by 1, with the same number of placements with in house foster carers and 9 fewer agency foster care placements. This obviously represents a significant financial saving. There has also been an increase of 5 children with kinship carers. There were 3 parent and baby placements, a rise of 2 placements.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has fallen by 3. 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 risen by 3 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 13, with 22 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 At the end of December there were 3 young people resident at The Bungalow and 3 at Acorns

2.8 At the end of the quarter 1 East Sussex child was subject to a Secure Order and was resident at Lansdowne.

2.9 Numbers of young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation have fallen again in the past quarter. And at the end of December there were 3 Further work continues with the aim of increasing accommodation options for careleavers

3. Conclusion

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and also within the overall Thrive programme. We are beginning to see overall LAC numbers stabilising. However this is offset by an ongoing 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.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommo	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Total Foster	515	512	515	511	515	515	511	503	493	497	494	494
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
Foster Car	321	319	326	324	319	314	313	309	308	313	308	308
Foster Car	58	55	53	56	55	57	55	54	46	51	53	51
Foster Car	119	120	118	120	129	130	126	124	126	119	118	117
Foster Car	6	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	3
Foster Car	11	15	15	10	9	11	14	14	12	13	13	15
Placed For	30	33	34	41	40	44	41	39	42	36	38	39
Bed & Break	3	1	1	0	2	4	3	5	6	6	4	3
Supported	4	4	2	4	4	3	5	8	9	7	8	6
Independent Living					4	4	4	2	1	1	1	2
Residential	15	18	19	20	18	16	17	17	18	21	20	19
Residential	20	18	18	19	21	21	22	19	16	15	14	15
Residential	6	6	5	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Residential	4	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Prison / Youth	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Placed With	17	19	20	19	15	20	19	17	17	19	18	20
Hospital/Home	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	3	2
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	617	620	622	624	627	635	632	621	612	614	609	611

Legal Stat	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12
Residence	173	173	175	168	169	182	185	190	191	201	203	204
Special Gu	124	128	129	137	142	156	166	168	179	188	200	201
Total	297	301	304	305	311	338	351	358	370	389	403	405