

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **19 April 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 December 2012 and the end of March 2013, the upward trend in the overall number of LAC does appear to have been reversed and LAC numbers are decreasing in line with the Thrive agenda. There were 15 fewer children overall at the end of the quarter and 39 fewer children than at the peak in June 2012.

2.3 At the end of March, the total number of children in foster care has decreased by 10 with the 6 fewer placements with in house foster carers. You will note though that agency numbers look odd and appear to have increased over the quarter. This relates to a data entry error where children's placements were coded incorrectly. It does not actually mean more children or higher costs, but it is confusing and unhelpful. There has also been a decrease of 10 children with kinship carers. There were 4 parent and baby placements, an increase of 1 placement.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has fallen by 11 at the end of the quarter. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children and, as Agency Decision Maker, I see many examples of very timely assessment of carers and matching of children.

2.5 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has risen by 1 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 5 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 2 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 risen again by 2 in the past quarter and at the end of December there were 5. Some progress has been made on 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 a gradual downward trend in the overall LAC numbers. This is still being 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.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Corporate Parenting Panel
LAC Statistics
Appendix 1

19 April 2013

Accommodation Type	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13
Total Foster Placements	511	515	515	511	503	493	497	494	494	485	483	484
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>313</i>	<i>309</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>313</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>302</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>16</i>
Placed For Adoption	41	40	44	41	39	42	36	38	39	35	36	28
Bed & Breakfast	0	2	4	3	5	6	6	4	3	4	4	5
Supported People Accommodation	4	4	3	5	8	9	7	8	6	6	8	7
Independent Living		4	4	4	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	4
Residential - East Sussex Home	20	18	16	17	17	18	21	20	19	21	21	21
Residential - Agency Residential Care	19	21	21	22	19	16	15	14	15	14	14	14
Residential - Schools	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	4	5
Residential - Secure	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Residential - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	2
Placed With Parent	19	15	20	19	17	17	19	18	20	18	19	21
Hospital/Health Setting	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	3	3
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	624	627	635	632	621	612	614	609	611	597	597	596

Legal Status Type	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13
Residence Orders	168	169	182	185	190	191	201	203	204	213	215	217
Special Guardianship Orders	137	142	156	166	168	179	188	200	201	203	203	206
Total	305	311	338	351	358	370	389	403	405	416	418	423

