

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **19 July 2013**

By: **Interim Director of Children's Services**

Title of Report: **Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics**

Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter**

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**Recommendations:** **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 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. It is important to be aware that the figures are a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore mask considerable activity throughout the months.

2.2 Looking at the figures, between the end of March 2013 and the end of June 2013, there were 14 fewer children overall. However a rise of 6 children is evident between May and June. Numbers will fluctuate dependent on a range of factors such as large sibling groups coming into the care system, the numbers of young people reaching 18 and therefore leaving the system etc. A change between two months is not therefore a trend and taking a longer term view is more helpful. This is apparent by looking at the totals between July 2012 and June 2013 where there is an overall reduction of 50 children.

2.3 At the end of March, the total number of children in foster care has decreased by 5 with 6 more placements with in- house foster carers and 2 fewer with agency foster carers. There has also been a decrease of 9 children with kinship carers. There number of parent and baby placements has remained stable at 4.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by 11 at the end of the quarter. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children. This rise is due to increased recruitment and assessment activity within the Adoption Service as a result of Thrive investment.

2.5 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has fallen markedly over the quarter and we have 12 fewer children placed in that way at the end of June. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and agreement to begin or end t a placement with parents is given at a senior level.

2.6 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 13, with 17 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 At the end of June there were 3 young people resident at The Bungalow and 1 at Acorns

2.8 At the end of the quarter 3 East Sussex children, all of whom were previously in our children's homes, were subject to a Secure Order and placed at Lansdowne.

2.9 Numbers of young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation have fallen by 3 in the past quarter to 2 at the end of June.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and also within the overall Thrive programme. We are still seeing an overall downward trend in the LAC numbers. This continues to be offset by an ongoing rise in children subject to both Residence Orders and to Special Guardianship Orders. This represents good permanence planning for children but it should be noted that 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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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

<b>Accommodation Type</b>	<b>Jul-12</b>	<b>Aug-12</b>	<b>Sep-12</b>	<b>Oct-12</b>	<b>Nov-12</b>	<b>Dec-12</b>	<b>Jan-13</b>	<b>Feb-13</b>	<b>Mar-13</b>	<b>Apr-13</b>	<b>May-13</b>	<b>Jun-13</b>
Total Foster Placements	511	503	493	497	494	494	485	483	484	476	466	479
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</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>300</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>308</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</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>39</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</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>119</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent &amp; Baby</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>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</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>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
Placed For Adoption	41	39	42	36	38	39	35	36	28	38	40	39
Bed & Breakfast	3	5	6	6	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	2
Supported People Accommodation	5	8	9	7	8	6	6	8	7	7	7	5
Independent Living	4	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	1
Residential - East Sussex Home	17	17	18	21	20	19	21	21	21	22	18	16
Residential - Agency Residential Care	22	19	16	15	14	15	14	14	14	14	16	17
Residential - Schools	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	4	5	6	6	6
Residential - Secure	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Residential - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2
Placed With Parent	19	17	17	19	18	20	18	19	21	16	9	9
Hospital/Health Setting	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>582</b>

<b>Legal Status Type</b>	<b>Jul-12</b>	<b>Aug-12</b>	<b>Sep-12</b>	<b>Oct-12</b>	<b>Nov-12</b>	<b>Dec-12</b>	<b>Jan-13</b>	<b>Feb-13</b>	<b>Mar-13</b>	<b>Apr-13</b>	<b>May-13</b>	<b>Jun-13</b>
Residence Orders	185	190	191	201	203	204	213	215	217	224	227	230
Special Guardianship Orders	166	168	179	188	200	201	203	203	206	214	222	223
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>453</b>