

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **18 October 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**

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 and with a one off Adoption Reform Grant in 2013/14.

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 June 2013 and the end of September 2013, there were nine more children overall and the rise since May has continued, although looking at subsets of children it is apparent that both agency foster care and residential numbers have decreased and the number of children placed in-house with ESCC foster carers has continued to rise. However the Panel should note that the relationship between budget and numbers is not straightforward, as placement costs for some individual children have increased.

2.3 At the end of September, the total number of children in foster care has risen by seven with ten more placements with in-house foster carers and three fewer with agency foster carers. There has also been a rise of six children with kinship carers. The number of parent and baby placements has returned to four after higher numbers in the preceding two months.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by three at the end of the quarter. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children. Recruitment and assessment activity within the Adoption Service remain very positive.

2.5 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has risen again slightly and 2 more children were placed in that way at the end of September. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and agreement to begin or end a placement with parents is given at a senior level.

2.6 The number of children subject to Residence Orders (RO) has risen by two with 14 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).

2.7 At the end of June there were still three young people resident at The Bungalow and one at Acorns, in line with their individual care plans

2.8 At the end of the quarter two East Sussex children, both 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 risen again to four at the end of the quarter.

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 rise again in numbers which is disappointing. This rise would be even steeper were we not seeing continued use of ROs and SGOs to promote permanent options for children who would otherwise be LAC.

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Interim Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Appendix 1

Accommodation Type	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13
Total Foster Placements	497	494	494	485	483	484	476	466	479	487	488	486
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</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>321</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>318</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</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>34</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</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>113</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</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>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</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>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>
Placed For Adoption	36	38	39	35	36	28	38	40	39	37	42	42
Bed & Breakfast	6	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	2	3	3	4
Supported People Accommodation	7	8	6	6	8	7	7	7	5	4	3	2
Independent Living	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	3	1	1	1	1
Residential - East Sussex Home	21	20	19	21	21	21	22	18	16	15	15	15
Residential - Agency Residential Care	15	14	15	14	14	14	14	16	17	18	16	17
Residential - Schools	7	7	7	7	4	5	6	6	6	6	6	6
Residential - Secure	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Residential - Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Placed With Parent	19	18	20	18	19	21	16	9	9	8	8	11
Hospital/Health Setting	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	3
Total	614	609	611	597	597	596	592	576	582	587	589	591

Legal Status Type	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13
Residence Orders	201	203	204	213	215	217	224	227	230	229	230	232
Special Guardianship Orders	188	200	201	203	203	206	214	222	223	229	233	237
Total	389	403	405	416	418	423	438	449	453	458	463	469