

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **2 May 2014**
By: **Acting 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 an Adoption Reform grant in 2013-14. We are now aware that going forward this grant will be much reduced for 2014-15.

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. The underlying activity is also referred to within the annual report for the Fostering Service that is before the panel today.

2.2 Looking at the figures, between the end of December 2013 and the end of March 2014, there were 3 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, it is apparent that agency foster care numbers have decreased by two and agency residential numbers have decreased by one. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has risen by 13.

2.3 There has also been a drop of six children with kinship carers. The number of parent and baby placements has risen by two.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has dropped by eight at the end of the quarter after higher rates in previous months. 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 dropped by three. 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 10, with 10 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).

2.7 At the end of March there were five young people resident at The Bungalow, in line with their individual care plans

2.8 At the end of the quarter, one East Sussex child was subject to a Secure Order.

2.9 At the end of the quarter we have four young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation and more work is being done on this in line with the Ofsted Action Plan.

3. Conclusion

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and also within the overall Thrive programme. Overall numbers have remained fairly level.

LIZ RUGG
Acting Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDIX 1

Accommodation Type	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Total Foster Placements	476	466	479	487	488	486	481	474	464	472	466	473
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	300	296	308	321	317	318	318	312	300	306	299	313
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	39	32	32	34	36	38	41	34	33	35	33	27
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	119	119	119	113	119	116	110	116	118	116	118	116
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</i>	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	2	2	3	3	4
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>	14	15	16	13	11	10	8	10	11	12	13	13
Placed For Adoption	38	40	39	37	42	42	33	34	37	34	35	29
Bed & Breakfast	3	4	2	3	3	4	6	3	1	0	2	4
Supported People Accommodation	7	7	5	4	3	2	1	3	4	3	3	3
Independent Living	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - East Sussex Home	22	18	16	15	15	15	18	18	18	18	18	18
Residential - Agency Residential Care	14	16	17	18	16	17	15	18	17	16	17	16
Residential - Schools	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	9	9	9
Residential - Secure	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	4	2	1
Residential - Other	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Placed With Parent	16	9	9	8	8	11	14	16	17	16	17	14
Hospital/Health Setting	2	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	1	0	1
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total Looked After	592	576	582	587	589	591	581	580	576	576	574	573

Legal Status Type	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Residence Orders	224	227	230	229	230	232	232	235	240	241	247	250
Special Guardianship Orders	214	222	223	229	233	237	246	257	259	259	262	269
Total	438	449	453	458	463	469	478	492	499	500	509	519