

Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	11 July 2014
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.
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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 and with an Adoption Reform grant.

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. Members will also be aware that the end of year Thrive target for a reduction in LAC numbers to 560 was not met, however this is partly attributable to a legislative change that has resulted in all young people remanded or imprisoned for criminal activity becoming LAC.

2.2 Between the end of March and the end of June 2014, there were 7 more children overall. Looking at subsets of children, it is apparent that three additional unaccompanied asylum seeking young people have become LAC. Agency foster care numbers have decreased by 3 and agency residential numbers have increased by 2. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has risen by 6.

2.3 There has also been a rise of 4 children with kinship carers. The number of parent and baby placements has risen by 1.

2.4 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has dropped by 2 at the end of the quarter. 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 remained stable after slightly lower numbers in the preceding 2 months. 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 has remained stable with 9 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.7 At the end of the quarter, 1 East Sussex child was subject to a Secure Order. She remains at Lansdowne.

2.8 At the end of the quarter we still have 4 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.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Appendix 1

Accommodation Type	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14
Total Foster Placements	487	488	486	481	474	464	472	466	473	473	472	478
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>313</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>319</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>
Placed For Adoption	37	42	42	33	34	37	34	35	29	30	26	27
Bed & Breakfast	3	3	4	6	3	1	0	2	4	4	3	4
Supported People Accommodation	4	3	2	1	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3
Independent Living	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - East Sussex Home	15	15	15	18	18	18	18	18	18	20	20	22
Residential - Agency Residential Care	18	16	17	15	18	17	16	17	16	16	18	18
Residential - Schools	6	6	6	6	7	7	9	9	9	9	7	7
Residential - Secure	2	2	2	1	2	4	4	2	1	2	2	2
Residential - Other	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	1
Placed With Parent	8	8	11	14	16	17	16	17	14	12	12	14
Hospital/Health Setting	4	4	3	4	3	4	1	0	1	2	1	1
Absconded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2
Total Looked After	587	589	591	581	580	576	576	574	573	578	570	580

UASC Children	6	6	6	7	7	7	6	5	5	5	5	8
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Legal Status Type	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14
Residence Orders	229	230	232	232	235	240	241	247	250	251	251	250
Special Guardianship Orders	229	233	237	246	257	259	259	262	269	272	274	278
Total	458	463	469	478	492	499	500	509	519	523	525	528