



## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2015

10.00 AM CC2, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillor Rosalyn St. Pierre (Chair)  
Councillors Peter Charlton, Charles Clark, Roy Galley, Ruth O'Keeffe,  
Jim Sheppard and Sylvia Tidy

### A G E N D A

- 1 Minutes of last meeting held on 30 January 2015 *(Pages 3 - 6)*
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Disclosure by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- 4 Notification of items which the Chair considers to be urgent and proposes to take at the end of the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgently.
- 5 To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the next three agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in Category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual.
- 6 Ofsted Inspection reports for the following: **(bound separately)**
  - a Brodrick House *(Pages 7 - 14)*
  - b Hazel Lodge *(Pages 15 - 24)*
  - c Homefield Cottage *(Pages 25 - 36)*
  - d The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive *(Pages 37 - 44)*
- 7 Children's Home Regulations 1991, Regulation 33: Inspection reports for December 2014, January 2015 and February 2015 for the following children's homes: **(bound separately)**
  - a Acorns at Dorset Road *(Pages 45 - 74)*
  - b Brodrick House *(Pages 75 - 110)*
  - c Hazel Lodge *(Pages 111 - 144)*
  - d Homefield Cottage *(Pages 145 - 184)*

- e           Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 185 - 226*)
- f           The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 227 - 258*)
- 8          Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair
- 9          Annual progress report of the East Sussex Fostering Service - report by Director of Children's Services (*Pages 259 - 268*)
- 10         Annual progress report of the East Sussex Adoption and Permanence Service - report by Director of Children's Services (*Pages 269 - 276*)
- 11         Looked After Children (LAC) Health Service Update - report by Director of Children's Services (*Pages 277 - 280*)
- 12         Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics - report by Director of Children's Services (*Pages 281 - 284*)
- 13         Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair

PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive  
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent  
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16 April 2015

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## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held on 30 January 2015 at County Hall, Lewes

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PRESENT: Councillors O’Keeffe, St Pierre (Chair), Sheppard, Tidy and Whetstone

ALSO PRESENT: Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children’s Services  
Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Safeguarding, LAC and Youth Justice  
Anna Brookes, Head of School and Education, Employment and Training Coordinator  
Sally Carnie, Head of Looked After Children Services  
Stuart McKeown, School Appeals Manager  
Hannah Matthews, Democratic Services Officer  
Claire Padgham, Practice Manager, Adoption and Permanence

Anthony Julyan, Operations Manager, Children’s Disability Service  
Janet Fairless, RHM Brodrick House and Homefield Cottage  
Denise Pead, Deputy Manager Homefield Cottage  
Nicky Scott, Operations Manager, LAC Services  
Helen Simmons, RHM Sorrel Drive and Acorns

### 21. MINUTES

21.1 RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2014 as a correct record.

### 22. APOLOGIES

22.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charlton and Clark. It was noted that Councillor Whetstone was acting as a substitute for Councillor Galley.

22.2 Apologies were also received from Nigel Hewett, RHM at Lansdowne Secure Unit and Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of LAC Services.

### 23. REPORTS

23.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are included in the minute book.

### 24. URGENT ITEMS

24.1 Councillor St Pierre requested information regarding any Looked After Children who were attending St Mary’s Special School in Bexhill, following recent media coverage. It was confirmed that there are currently no LAC at the School.

### 25. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

25.1 RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following two items on the agenda on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual. It was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

## 26. OFSTED REPORTS

25.1 The Panel was informed of the Children's Services Department's progress in discussions with Ofsted regarding recent reports.

26.2 The Panel considered reports received from Ofsted on the following services:

- (a) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (b) Hazel Lodge
- (c) Homefield Cottage
- (d) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (e) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

26.3 RESOLVED to note the reports.

## 27. CHILDREN'S HOMES REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 33: INSPECTION REPORTS

27.1 The Panel considered Regulation 33 Reports for September, October and November 2014 for the following Children's Homes:

- (a) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (b) Brodrick House
- (c) Hazel Lodge
- (d) Homefield Cottage
- (e) Lansdowne Secure Unit
- (f) The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

27.2 Each Registered Home Manager gave a brief oral update on activity at the home covering the inspection period and bringing the Panel up to date.

27.3 RESOLVED to note the written and oral reports.

## 28. SPECIALIST ADOPTION CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (ADCAMHS)

28.1 The Panel considered a report and presentation by the Director of Children's Services which set out the work of the Specialist Adoption Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (AdCAMHS). A video presenting the voices and opinions of adopted children was played to the Panel by Clare Padgham, Practice Manager, Adoption and Permanence .

28.2 The Panel discussed: the use of Pupil Premium Plus and means of applying for it; the range of support available to families through the AdCAMHS Service, for them to chose from; the scale of the project, with 50 open cases helping 31 children; the positive relationship with the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; and responsibility for adopted children who move into the County.

28.3 It was agreed that t the work of the Service should be presented to the East and West Adoption Panels at a suitable business meeting.

28.4 RESOLVED to note the report and presentation.

29. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (ESCC) CARE LEAVERS' EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

29.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the Care to Work project, and the County Council's corporate responsibility to prepare care leavers for the world of work. Anna Brookes highlighted the work of the Personnel and Training team in supporting the project, together with the opportunities identified for work experience placements, internships and apprenticeships. She reported that currently 22 young people were at university and 70% of careleavers were in training and education at Year 13.

29.2 The Panel discussed: the need to address each young person's circumstances individually, to maximise the chances of a successful placement; the range of opportunities across the County, with an increasing number of participants; the need to lower barriers to care leavers accessing opportunities to develop their employability; and the role of schools in providing Information, Advice and Guidance to school leavers.

29.3 RESOLVED to (1) note the report; and  
(2) request an update at a future Panel meeting.

30. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

30.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined the changes to the Looked After Children (LAC) statistics in the last quarter. Liz Rugg, Assistant Director Safeguarding, LAC and Youth Justice explained that the statistics represented a snapshot of the activity of the Service and that additional children also come in and out of care during the month.

30.2 Members' attention was drawn to: the overall downward trend in the number of looked after children; the efforts being made to safely reduce the number of agency placements without disrupting stable placements; the financial commitment of the County Council to Special Guardianship Orders, which can be applied for by the Council or by parents; the rise in number of some subsets of LAC being attributable to legislation changes by which a child becomes looked after when remanded or convicted; and the services available to children whose parent has been sent to prison.

30.3 RESOLVED to note the report.

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Report to: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **24 April 2015**

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

Title of report: **Annual Progress Report of East Sussex Fostering Service  
1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015**

Purpose of report: **To outline the performance of the Fostering Service between  
1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Annual Progress report of the East Sussex Fostering Service is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 There are no increased costs arising from this report.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Adrian Sewell, Operations Manager, Fostering.  
Tel: 01323 463121  
Email: [adrian.sewell@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.sewell@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: none

## Appendix 1

### Annual Progress Report of East Sussex Fostering Service 1 April 2014– 31 March 2015

#### 1. Safeguarding

1.1 This outcome is fundamental to the delivery of fostering services across East Sussex and is embedded in each of the core functions: recruitment and retention; assessment, supervision and review; foster carer training; the matching and placing of children and young people with foster carers. These areas are addressed in more detail below.

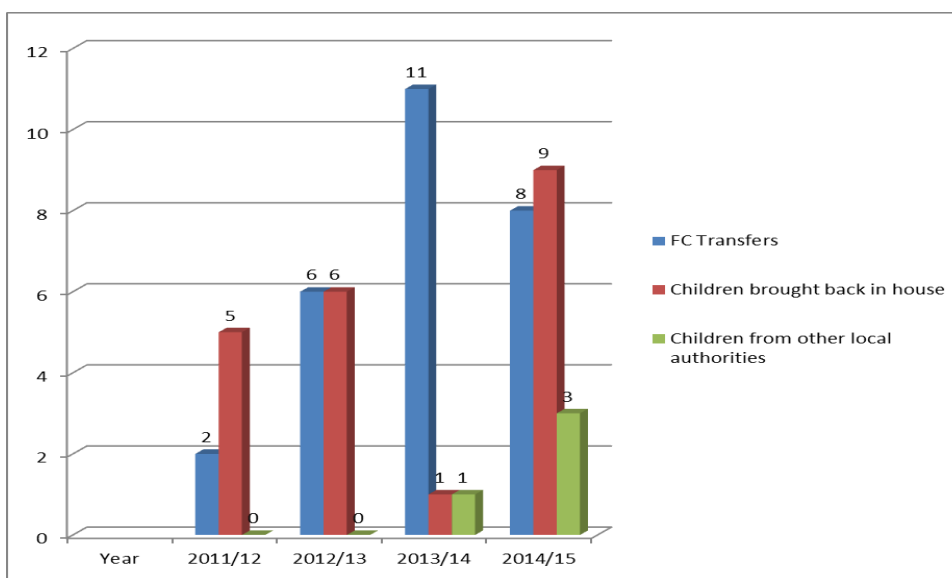
#### 2.0 Recruitment and Retention of Carers

2.1 The recruitment and retention team have been effective in undertaking timely assessments so that the process for applicants to foster from initial inquiry to approval now takes a maximum of 6 to 8 months depending on the complexity of the assessment. The recruitment and retention team have been able to fast track transfer assessments for foster carers approved with independent fostering providers. The team has also reviewed and amended their processes and recording systems to ensure they are effective, informative and timely.

2.2 From 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, 451 new enquiries were received which led to 205 screening calls and 77 initial visits to prospective foster carers. The recruitment strategy has focused on the recruitment of foster carers for children and young people of all ages but more recently the focus has been refined to the recruitment of foster carers for teenagers and also for children with disabilities, since both of these subsets of children can be particularly hard to place.

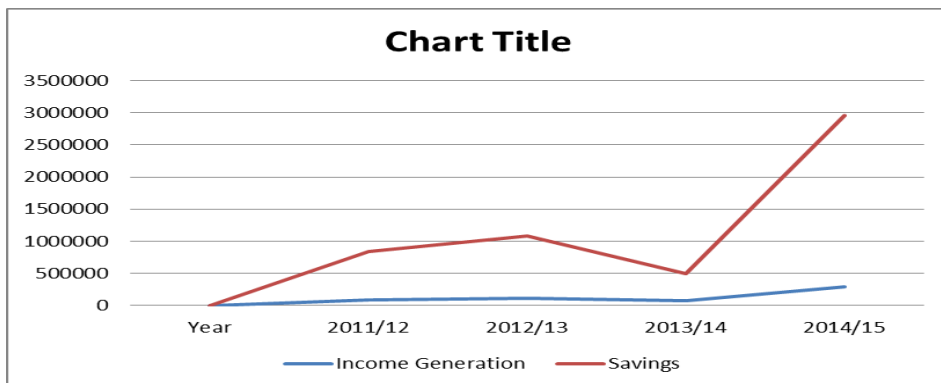
2.3 During this period the service has facilitated 8 'Skills to Foster' pre-assessment preparation courses. 42 households have attended these courses. The Children in Care Council (CICC), children who foster, and experienced foster carers help to facilitate these preparation groups and this continues to work extremely well.

2.4 The number of foster carer approvals concluded in 2014–2015 was 41 households that offer 62 placements. 8 of these households were transfers from independent fostering providers with 9 East Sussex looked after children already placed with these families. 3 looked after children from other local authorities were also placed with our foster carers which has brought some income into the service. (See table below).



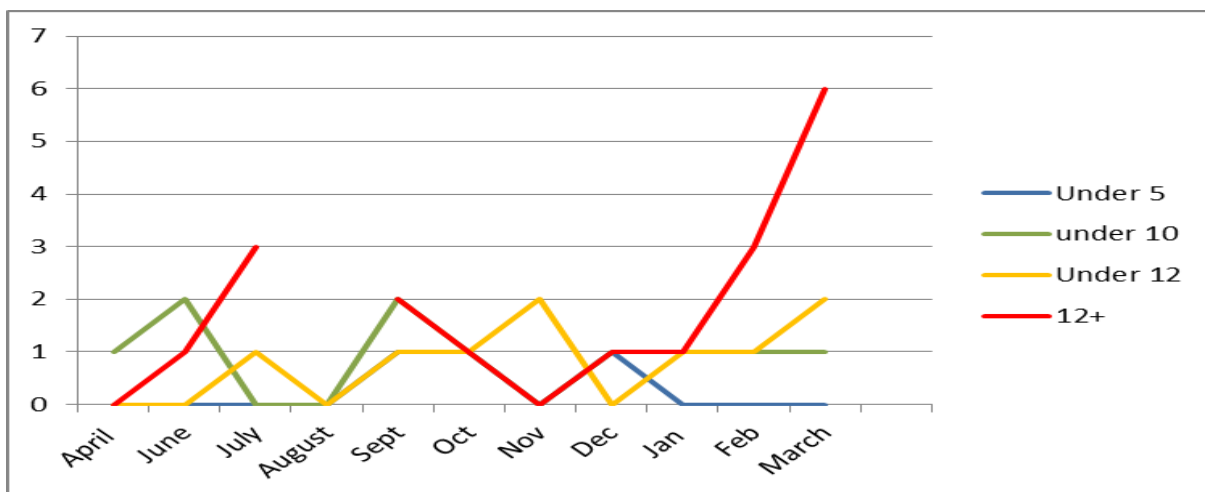
2.5 The recruitment and retention team have worked closely with the Looked After Children's (LAC) teams to advise and support social workers in their discussions with those agency foster carers who have enquired about transferring to East Sussex Fostering Service. The team have

streamlined their processes so that transfer assessments are completed in a timely manner. After the deduction of the East Sussex foster carer allowances paid to these foster carers the transfer of these foster carers equate to a saving to East Sussex of £256,000 per year in agency fees. (See diagram below).



2.6 Fostering Network’s most recent survey states that 12% of foster carers are lost nationally every year. The success of the East Sussex Fostering Service’s retention rate is significantly better than the national average and has improved greatly from last year. The service only lost 2.3% of their foster carers during 2014-2015 compared with 6.6% in the previous year.

2.7 The diagram below illustrates the total number of carers recruited each month and their preferred age ranges. (See diagram below)



2.8 East Sussex Fostering Service has been very successful in the recruitment of foster carers for younger children, with a sharp rise in the approval of carers for older children and teenagers towards the end of the year. This is evidence of the impact of the change of emphasis in the service’s targeted recruitment strategy to meet the need for foster carers for older children. It is the Fostering Service’s intention to continue in this direction for 2015/16 in order to meet the demand of placements for this more challenging cohort.

2.9 There were 7 fostering assessments still in progress at 31 March 2015. The recruitment and retention team are also following up enquiries from a further 5 fostering households currently approved by independent fostering agencies who are expressing an interest in transferring to East Sussex County Council.

2.10 During 2014–2015 the service delivered a number of recruitment and retention events and these have included:

## Recruitment Events

- Information evenings have been held monthly - 6 in Eastbourne, 5 in Hastings and 1 in Uckfield (joint event with Adoption) The service was represented at the annual Summer Fayre at Raystede animal shelter and also spent time in Eastbourne town centre, handing out leaflets and postcards to increase the profile of fostering for East Sussex County Council.

## Retention Events.

- In April 2014, an event was held at Knockhatch for children who foster.
- In June 2014, a picnic was held at The British Science Centre, Herstmonceux for carers, children and staff.
- In August 2014, an event was held at Knockhatch for carers, children and staff. The Fostering Service invited agency foster carers caring for ESCC children and their social workers. This has proven to be successful in raising our profile with agency carers.
- In September 2014, an evening event was held at Blackstock Barn, Hellingly, to say 'Thank You' to our carers. This was attended by 120 carers and staff.
- Skills to Foster sessions for 'children who foster' was offered to all newly approved carer's children aged 7 – 17 years in September 2014.
- In October 2014, The Fostering Service in conjunction with East Sussex Foster Carer Association (ESFCA), held a 'children who foster' residential trip at PGL, Windmill Hill in celebration of Sons & Daughters week. The children produced a Christmas card which was sent to all foster families, agency carers caring for ESCC children, and social work teams.
- The Fostering Service has sent regular newsletters to foster carers providing up to date information on the service and to promote the service's support groups and training events.

## Advertising and Media Coverage



- This year The Fostering Service has focussed their recruitment strategy on the 'Reward worth waiting for'. This theme has been used in advertising for mainstream fostering as well as incorporating it into targeted recruitment of carers for teenagers and children with disabilities. Advertisements and articles have been used in the following:

- Bus shelters
- Local buses
- Sovereign FM Radio, Arrow FM Radio and Heart FM
- Local papers
- Lamp post banners
- 'Display vans' in both Hastings and Eastbourne
- posters in Eastbourne Arndale Centre
- 'Your County' magazine



- The Fostering Service has produced new posters and postcards for general fostering and specifically for children with disabilities. These have been distributed to all foster carers to display and distribute in their local area. This has widened the net of recruitment advertising throughout the county.

### 3 Foster Care Training

3.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, 554 training places have been taken up by foster carers (last year's equivalent was 422), predicting an increase for the overall academic year. Evaluation of the courses by participants show 79 % to be rated as "excellent" and 17% as "good".

3.2 Increasingly the Fostering Service is providing additional resources including e-learning and signposting carers to internet sites. All foster carers have been provided with a Paediatric First Aid books and have the opportunity to obtain the latest Fostering Network 'Safer Caring' manual and 'A New Approach and Safer Care in the Digital World' by attending the relevant courses.

3.3 New courses introduced this year have included;

- Food for Thought, Promoting Positive Behaviours
- Resilience Youth Work in Practice, Staying Put 18 – 25
- Talking to Young People about Sexual Health
- The Secure Base Model
- Therapeutic Life Story with Traumatized Children,
- Transitions and Endings
- Using Storytelling and Sand trays as Therapeutic Tools

3.4 The development of the Digital Mentors has been successful, with 3 foster carers being trained as Children Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) ambassadors. These ambassadors provide training and 1:1 support to other foster carers on internet safety and technology use. The Fostering Service is currently planning a number of new workshops on the safe use of technology, including iPads, mobile phones and the potential risks of sexual exploitation on such devices.

3.5 The Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications / accredited units continue, with 12 foster carers currently completing their Level 3 Children and Young People Diploma and 2 undertaking their Assessors award. As more foster carers are becoming involved within the training delivery and in co-facilitating discussion groups, the service is also introducing a level 3 Education and Learning qualification.

### 4. Foster carer support and supervision

4.1 The Fostering Service currently has 296 Fostering households. Of these, 27 households provide a range of placements for children with disabilities. Supervision and contact plans are assessed on the need of the foster carers, their family and the complexity of the children placed.

4.2 Support Groups are available to provide foster carers with opportunities to meet with other carers, to increase support networks and to give the opportunity for shared learning. There are four localised groups in Uckfield, Rotherfield, Eastbourne and Newhaven. There are also four themed groups: black and minority ethnic children and young people's support group, parent and child foster carers support group, a support group for carers of adolescents and a 'men who foster' support group.

4.3 Further support is provided for foster carers through the Fostering Advice line - an out of hours advice line service available to all foster carers and supported lodgings providers for 365 days per year. This service is staffed by a team of 7 workers from the Fostering Service, working on a rota basis, to provide support and advice to all foster carers.

4.4 There continues to be close working relationships with LAC teams, The Child and Adolescent Mental Health service, The Virtual School and Placement Support services(PSS); all of which are invaluable to supporting foster carers in sustaining placements and endeavouring to meet the children/young people's needs.

## **6. Health**

6.1 Meeting the health needs of looked after children remains a priority of the Fostering Service. In 2014/15 the service has run a number of training courses around health issues including suitable diets for looked after children, updated practice/health issues for babies, child development, dental health, food hygiene, medication training, sexual health and autism.

6.2 The system for notification of children to receive their initial health assessment has been recently streamlined by the Fostering Duty team. This will help to improve performance in timescales for 2015-16.

6.3 As part of an integrated LAC medical service, the Fostering Service now benefits from the services of an allocated medical adviser who provides medical oversight for fostering applications and foster carers' reviews when there are complex health issues.

## **7. Placement Activity**

7.1 On 31st March 2015 there were 548 children in care with 433 of these in foster placements (292 in-house; 94 agency; and 34 in approved kinship placements). Compared with the previous year, this shows that agency foster placements have decreased by 19%.

7.2 In addition, 14 young people (over 18) remain with their foster carers under the 'Staying Put' arrangements. There are also 33 children who are currently subject to Special Guardianship Orders placed with East Sussex foster carers. Fostering households also provide adoptive parents for 9 children, with one further foster carer currently undergoing an assessment to adopt a child in placement. Clearly this level of stability is very positive for individual children but it does impact on the number of placements available.

7.3 Of the 536 referrals received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, 505 resulted in placements being made or matched. Of the 536 referrals, 83 were ultimately not required and 20 remain awaiting placement (a combination of respite and short-term placements). In order to prioritise need, the Fostering Duty team have also developed a new referral form that incorporates a 'traffic light' system which highlights the urgency of placement need and confirms senior management authorisation.

7.4 The Fostering Duty team continues to focus on placing children within East Sussex resources. Since September 2014 only 2 children have been placed in external agency placements. These children were 2 young males who required specialist placements for extremely sexualised behaviour.

7.5 As a result of a LAC audit in July 2014, 18 children in agency provision were identified as having needs which could be met equally as well in-house. Of those 18 children, Fostering Duty brought 12 back into in-house provision with a saving of £630k for 2014-2015.



7.6 The matching process continues to be important. The ongoing challenge is that if we match complex children with newly approved foster carers, an extensive support packages needs to be put in place; so that foster carers are adequately supported to deal with some of our most challenging looked after children.

## **8. Placement Support**

8.1 The Placement Support service (PSS) is currently working with 116 children, young people and their foster carers with tailored packages of support. In 2014–2015, 28 new pieces of ongoing support to foster carers and children were commissioned including life story work. 75 packages of support were reviewed with 15 pieces of work ending as 'aim achieved'.

8.2 The PSS remains a vital resource, not only in providing ongoing support packages to long term placements but also in preventing a move to more costly agency placements. The following feedback from service users clearly indicates the benefits of this support:

- "If I don't have placement support, I can't keep this young man".
- "He is like a different boy since he completed life story work; he used to feel responsible, now he is just able to get on with his life, Thank you".
- "It is good to meet up with others that are in care, just like me, as they understand me"

8.3 The PSS has recently developed a positive partnership with Bede's School who are now providing a range of activities to looked after children at nil cost. Closer links to the Virtual School for looked after children have been developed. Four placement support staff are providing additional support to individual children in schools where there is a significant risk of their education placement breaking down. The service continues to promote close links with the Looked After Children Mental Health Service by attending their monthly referral meeting and working with the "team around the child".

## **9. User Participation**

9.1 During 2014-2015, the PSS took the lead in encouraging ESCC LAC and the LAC teams to complete the national children's on line monitor (organised by the Children's Commissioner) where 60 looked after children from East Sussex County Council completed detailed surveys. These results are currently being analysed and will feed into the overall children's "You Said, We did" framework.

9.2 The Young User Group (YUG) continues to be a springboard for young people who may show an interest in joining a future Children In Care Council (CICC). The group comprises 8 children aged from 7 to 11 who meet bi monthly to discuss care issues that concern them. This group met 6 times during the year and on average 8 children attended each meeting. The children have redesigned their logo that is displayed on their new T shirts and they are actively involved in the CICC Action Day. The YUG have now developed closer links with the CICC by periodically attending each other's meetings.

9.3 The third CICC has been running since September 2013 and during 2014-2015 they have met 12 times. CICC members have attended leadership training courses and the majority are also completing their Bronze Arts Award.

9.4 In 2014 the Action Day theme was 'safety' and 67 looked after children attended. The feedback was that these events should continue.

9.5 During 2014-2015, CICC members have attended

- 39 holiday activities to promote their Speak up Sessions (SUSS IT) and dealt with 29 issues raised by looked after children.

- 28 consultations locally and nationally that include meetings with the new Children's Commissioner, the Children's Minister, the local Member of Parliament, local County Councillors and members of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 9 sessions for the Skills to Foster preparation groups. This allows prospective carers to directly hear the voice of the child in care.
- 9 recruitment panels for social workers.
- 5 meetings with CICC's from Brighton and Hove and West Sussex to promote closer regional working

9.6 The PSS regularly seeks views from looked after children in order to improve practice. Some of "You Said, We Did" responses were as follows:

- *LAC wanted simple explanations with regard to their rights and entitlements-*  
The CICC funded and produced a pack of playing cards with simple explanations on their rights.
- *LAC found it difficult to access the Complaints webpage-*  
A new web page has now being redesigned that CICC will test. The CICC logo will be added to it when it is approved.
- *LAC did not know always who their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) was-*  
On Takeover day the CICC worked with IRO's to produce an IRO photo board so young people could easily recognise their IRO.
- *The CICC wanted to make more links with LAC with disabilities-*  
A meeting has set up at with children living at The Bungalow with an aim to develop links with children with disabilities.

## 10. Partnership work with foster carers

10.1 The Operations Manager of the Fostering Service continues to attend the monthly meetings of the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) management group to report on developments in the Fostering Service and Children's Services.

10.2 The Operations Managers for Looked After Children and the Fostering Service and the Chair of the ESFCA continue to host monthly 'surgeries' for foster carers who can bring issues and problems directly to key managers.

## 11. The Supported Lodgings Service

11.1 Supported lodgings providers continue to offer valuable placements for LAC, care leavers and homeless young people in the East Sussex area.

11.2 There are currently 29 households providing a total of 43 placements across the county. Since April 2014, 10 supported lodgings assessments have been undertaken with 3 being approved and a further 7 assessments awaiting approval.

11.3 An objective over this past year has been to encourage supported lodging providers to consider becoming registered foster carers, therefore 'enhancing' their potential to provide placements for younger people across both services. This has been successful with 4 carer's now holding dual registration and able to provide care placements for our older and more complex and challenging looked after children.

11.4 During the last year Supported Lodgings carers have provided a number of step down placements for children from both in-house residential and foster placements. Significantly, Supported Lodgings carers provided 4 placements for looked after young people moving from expensive external residential provision at a saving of £800,000 per annum.

## 12 Summary

12.1 The Fostering Service has recruited 41 foster carer households offering 62 placements. This success is due to ESCC Fostering Service not only having an effective marketing and recruitment strategy, but also due to having a firmly established reputation for the effective and professional support it offers its foster carers. ESCC needs to ensure that this reputation is not compromised in order for the service to continue its recruitment success. This will avoid the need to place looked after children in further expensive agency placements in the long term.

12.2 The demand on the Fostering Duty team has been considerable in the past year with most referrals resulting in in-house and good quality placements. The Duty team has worked closely with supervising social workers to maximise foster carers' potential to take a range of placements.

12.3 As a result of a comprehensive management placement audit in July 2014, the Fostering Duty team led on a task to bring a number of children back into suitably matched in house ESCC foster placements. This has resulted in savings of £800,000. The successful placement of these young people has been achieved because of the excellent partnership with existing LAC partners, including The Placement Support service, The Virtual School and the Supported Lodgings service. All of these have provided a comprehensive range of extensive support services to help manage our most challenging and complex young people.

12.4 The key management priorities for 2015-2016 include:

- A Targeted recruitment strategy to attract prospective foster carers for older more complex children. The challenge that this brings is that it places East Sussex Fostering Service's marketing strategy in direct competition with independent fostering agencies that have traditionally focussed on this age range.
- To continue with the Fostering Service's success in attracting foster carers who wish to transfer to East Sussex County Council. Whilst children and foster carers benefit from being registered and integrated with good quality services for looked after children within East Sussex County Council, this will continue to make significant financial savings for the Council.

ADRIAN SEWELL  
Operations Manager Fostering Service

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Report to: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **24 April 2015**

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

Title of report: **Annual Progress Report of East Sussex Adoption and Permanence Service 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015**

Purpose of report: **To outline the performance of the Adoption and Permanence Service between 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The Annual Progress report of the East Sussex Fostering Service is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2 There are no increased costs arising from this report.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: none

## 1. Supporting Information

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
1. Number of Children Adopted	44	57	43
2. Number of Adoption Matches (children)	53	50	56
3. Number of Permanent Fostering Matches (children)	10	10	7
4. Number of East Sussex Adoptive Matches (children)	44	40	33
5. Number of Consortium Adoptive Matches (children)	1	1	6
6. Number of Inter-Agency Matches (children): Permanence:	2	4	3
Adoption:	8	9	17
7. Number of Prospective Adopters Approved (households) *	39	44	50
8. Number of Permanent Carers Approved (households)	4	8	4
9. Number of Children Approved for Adoption up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	69	52	43
10. Number of children Approved for Permanence up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	17	24	26
11. Number of Approved Adopters waiting to be Matched	16	17	20
12. Number of Disruptions presented to Panel: Permanence:	1	1	0
Adoptions:			

## 2. Recruitment Activity

**2.1** East Sussex Adoption Service has continued to refine and develop the two stage recruitment process using feedback from adopters. It is popular with prospective adopters, who have advised that they appreciate the support they receive during the process. The improved timescales in relation to the approval of prospective adopters has been maintained this year. On average it has taken between six and nine months from applicants registering interest to approval at Adoption Panel.

**2.2** Enquirers to East Sussex (ESCC) have also reported that they have found the Adoption Recruitment Service to be welcoming and helpful. This has led to an enviable reputation as being the local provider of choice, and it is clear that this has specifically led to a number of enquirers choosing to adopt with us. There is a dedicated telephone number for enquiries, a specific email address and an on-line enquiry form to ensure that all enquirers receive a prompt and personal service.

**2.3** During 2014-15 the agency received 258 enquiries about adopting with ESCC. Following receipt of information packs, 88 requests were received for Registration of Interest Forms. Thus a higher than average conversion rate has been maintained at 34% in 2014-15 which is a slight increase on 33% in 2013-14. This compares very well with the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) suggested national figure of 10%.

**2.4** Regular recruitment activities for prospective adopters have taken place throughout the year, which target the needs and profile of the children waiting. Advertising and

recruitment activity has included providing information on the Government Gateway First4Adoption, New Family Social and BAAF websites, newspapers, radio, and bespoke advertising at railway stations, at supermarket sites, and on buses travelling around the county. ESCC Adoption Facebook page remains popular in reaching a range of prospective adopters. It is regularly updated with information regarding local adoption services, as well as any key national developments in adoption services that might interest local families. In addition monthly information events have been held in the evenings and weekends in order that enquirers can drop in and speak directly with social workers and experienced adopters.

**2.5** There has been a continued national drive, led by the Government, to recruit higher numbers of adopters for children waiting to be placed. Locally ESCC has received an increased number of enquiries from outside the ESCC borders this year. This has enabled the Adoption Service to meet the demand to place the majority of East Sussex LAC locally and also to 'over' recruit adopters for use by other local authorities nationally. This has generated an income of £27k per child. Eight ESCC families have been used by other local authorities to place their children this year.

**2.6** The two stage recruitment process has been reviewed and as a consequence there are a number of further changes that are planned for 2015-16 to improve still further the service offered to enquirers. The Stage 1 meeting and Preparation to Adopt course has been redesigned to provide a more seamless flow of information for adopters as they proceed through the process. This should reduce time taken in Stage 1 and address any issues promptly. The service has also streamlined the processes for experienced adopters and for foster carers who wish to adopt children already in their care in line with the Government regulations.

**2.7** During 2014-15 there were 10 experienced adopters who returned for assessment and two foster carers who applied to be assessed as adopters for children in their care. There were also four families who offered fostering to adopt placements for children, thus avoiding delay and disruption for those children awaiting the outcome of a court judgement. Three of these four children were placed on a fostering basis with adoptive families where their siblings had previously been placed and adopted. The fourth child was placed with a childless couple who were willing to take the risk of offering the child a foster placement prior to it becoming an adoption placement with a Placement Order

### **3. Children with a plan for Adoption.**

**3.1** During the period 2014-15, the number of children with a plan for adoption continued on a downward trend from 57 in 2013-14, to 43 in 2014-15. This is in part due to the successful implementation locally of 'Thrive' which is continuing to reduce the number of children entering the care system. But also the impact of the court ruling ReB and ReBs in 2013-14 which required social workers to clearly explore all alternatives within the child's network before adoption could be agreed. Subsequently, the Adoption Leadership Board chaired by Martin Narey, produced a report 'Myth Busting' which attempted to redress the balance and argued that social workers had misinterpreted the ruling and that the plan for adoption should be promoted at the earliest opportunity. This trend will need close oversight in terms of any long term planning for adoption services.

**3.2** The Adoption Service has continued to place the majority of children locally with 'in house' adopters. Overall of the 56 children who were matched for adoption; 33 of these children were matched with in house adopters, 6 children were placed within the local consortium and 17 placed with another agency. The use of interagency options has been primarily to secure placements for those children who are considered harder to place and who have more complex needs. For example, at least three of the children who were placed for adoption via this route had specific needs including Down's Syndrome and complex

genetic conditions. In addition, two sibling pairs of boys were placed as were a number of older children with complex and abusive backgrounds who would not ordinarily have had the opportunity to be adopted. These are very significant achievements for the service, providing great outcomes for these children.

**3.3** In respect of the Adoption Scorecard, East Sussex continues to remain one of the top performing local authorities in the southern area. The timeliness of placing children for adoption improved in relation to the 'three year average between children entering care and moving in with their adoptive family' reduced from 539 in 2013-14 to 522 days at the end of 2014/15. This compares very favourably with the national average of 647 days. It is particularly pleasing given that this outcome was achieved having placed three complex, hard to place children during the year who had been waiting much longer than usual. The very swift placement of the remaining children had clearly offset the longer timescales for the hard to place children and had reduced the overall average. The established dedicated Practice Manager and Caseworker responsible for the family finding and matching process have made a very significant contribution to the high performance in this area.

**3.4** As a result of the lower number of children waiting for a placement, family finding events have been reduced. This year the Adoption Service attended just one National Adoption Register event. The planned Activity Day for November 2014 was also rescheduled for June 2015 as all of the children considered in the April 2014 event had been matched.

**3.5** ESCC has successfully contracted with Adoption Link during 2014-15. This is a national organisation set up in 2014 which aimed to match adopters and children in a timely fashion using adopter led matching. Given the success of this initiative, East Sussex has signed a contract for a further year with this agency.

#### **4. Permanence**

**4.1** The Adoption & Permanence Service has continued to target family finding for those children whose plan is permanent fostering. The permanence tracking workshop has met regularly throughout the year to monitor the timescales of permanence plans and matches closely. The number of children approved for permanence has increased slightly in the past 12 months to 26.

**4.2** At year end there were 20 children with a plan for permanence via long term fostering for whom the service was actively family finding. This included three pairs of siblings; one set of three children; 11 single children. There were matches identified and being considered for four of these children. However, there remains an ongoing challenge in recruiting sufficient numbers of permanent foster carers to meet the needs of our Looked After Children.

**4.3** The past year has seen an increased number of children with particularly complex needs, many of whom have been part of large sibling groups requiring placement together. The service has responded by developing a bespoke, targeted recruitment programme specifically for these children.

**4.4** There have been a range of 'in house' carers who have been willing to put themselves forward to offer long term care to children currently in placement with them. In addition, a number of foster carers have also transferred from the independent sector to ESCC fostering service to provide permanent placements to our children. (see fostering annual report)



## **5. Adoption Support**

**5.1** Of the services delivered in ESCC, Ofsted commented in 2014 that ‘Adoption support services are excellent and the level of support provided for adoptive families is exceptionally strong. The service demonstrates an impressive commitment to adoption support, one that is well tailored and individualised at all stages of the adoption journey’.

**5.2** During 2014-15 the demands made on the Adoption Support Service have risen incrementally as the activity levels in recruitment and matching have increased. More families have contacted the Adoption Support Service throughout their adoption journey, which is reflected in the rising number of referrals peaking at 38 in 2014-15. Whilst placing increasing numbers of older children and sibling groups is very positive for the children involved, it brings its own challenges in the context of adoption support.

**5.3** The specially commissioned Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for adopted children and their families, ‘AdCAMHS’, is now in its second year of a two year funded project. The aim of the service is to support families post adoption with a dedicated therapy and consultation service, providing specialist consultations and individual, family or group therapy for adopted children, their families and for the professionals supporting them. The Service was designed to contribute to adoption stability and promote positive attachments within adoptive families (and ultimately to prevent placement breakdown). AdCAMHS was officially launched in November 2014 by Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families. As at year end the service was supporting 58 adoptive families.

**5.4** The Adoption Service commissioned individual therapists throughout the year to provide specialist support to families in areas such as therapeutic life story work and ‘Theraplay’. Play, Drama and Music therapies have also been identified to enable children to communicate and express themselves more creatively where required. In addition, child to parent violence was identified as a factor in a small, but significant number of families, therefore the service commissioned a systemic family therapist, with expertise in the ‘Non Violence Resistance’ (NVR) approach, to offer advice and interventions.

**5.5** Excellent links have been maintained with the Virtual School. Since September 2013, two part-time adoption support workers have been appointed to the team, funded from the Adoption Reform Grant initially, and latterly using the Pupil Premium. These roles have provided adoptive families with support for educational and school-based issues. Training for schools on attachment and on the needs of adoptive children in an education setting, has been a key area of intervention.

**5.6** The Adoption Support Service has worked closely with colleagues in the wider Children’s Services throughout 2014-15 particularly in relation to a number of children who have presented very high risk safeguarding concerns such as; violence, self harm, substance misuse, offending behaviours and mental health issues. In complex adoption support cases, a team around the child approach is vital in managing risk and safeguarding both the child and family, as well as in preventing some of our young people returning to care. At year end 2014-15, the Adoption Support Service was offering support to over 85 families with multiple and complex needs.

**5.7** During the year, the Team facilitated two groups for adopted children aged 10-12 years. In addition the AdCAMHS service jointly facilitated a group for adoptive teenagers within the adoption service. Additionally a 12 week Therapeutic Parenting Programme was successful in bringing adopters together to focus on adoption issues with the support of two child and adolescent psychotherapists, also under the umbrella of AdCAMHS.

**5.8** The Service has continued to support and work closely with the Adoptive Families Group (AFG), set up in January 2013. This is an independent adopter-led group which focuses on lobbying and on raising the profile of the needs of adoptive families both locally and nationally.

**5.9** The contract with Adoption UK has delivered four support groups at different locations across East Sussex during 2014-15. In addition the services of CMB counselling (a small independent agency) have been commissioned to ensure that a service is provided for adopted adults and their relatives. These contracts have been regularly monitored and reviewed by the adoption service.

**5.10** Two events were hosted by ESCC last year for adoptive families, an Easter party and an event in September, both of which were very well attended. A further event is planned for 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**5.11** The Same Sex Adopters Group met on a regular basis throughout the year, facilitated by members of the adoption team, with keynote speakers in attendance.

**5.12** The Service was involved in supporting 249 direct contact arrangements in 2014-15, which is a significant increase from 218 in 2013-14. There were 765 indirect contact agreements being facilitated by the service, once again an increase from 685 in 2013-14. This aspect of the service requires a high level of professional scrutiny as well as dedicated full-time administrative support.

**5.13** In January 2014, the Adoption Support Service in East Sussex was selected as one of ten local authorities nationally to pilot the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) prototype. As part of its programme of adoption reform, the Government was committed to putting in place new strengthened arrangements for adoption support, as the supply of adopters increased. The ASF is available specifically for the provision of therapeutic support; in recognition that many adopted children have been through difficult and traumatic experiences in their birth families. To date ESCC Adoption Service has made successful bids to the fund raising a total of £87,190.60. The ASF will be rolled out nationally in May 2015, pledging £19.3m to therapeutic support. East Sussex has been instrumental in testing the criteria and in helping to shape the operation of the fund prior to its launch. Unfortunately the roll out of the fund will also see the end of the Adoption Reform Grant which will reduce the financial base of the service by £400k in 2015-16.

## **6. Adoption & Permanence Panel**

**6.1** The panels have experienced a number of changes in venue, administration, professional advice and membership during the past 12 months. The Panels have extended their thanks to all those who have stepped down, and warmly welcomed all new participants.

**6.2** It is to the credit of panel admin that it has been made possible for the panels to become fully electronic for 2015-16 and from mid-April all panel members will receive their

papers electronically. This will make a significant saving to the local authority, not to mention the environment, considerably reducing and almost eliminating the cost of printing and postage which hitherto has been in the region of £12k.

**6.3** In a further attempt to reduce costs, a change in venue was agreed during 2014-15. This has proved to be efficient in terms of travel, parking, refreshments and reliability. Detailed comparative exercises have been undertaken by panel admin to achieve the most cost effective option which can meet the complex requirements.

**6.4** Panels have continued to meet on a weekly basis with a steady number of adopter approvals and matches being presented. Ongoing training to Panel members was delivered during the year.

**6.5** Inclusion of the Adoption Service within the new integrated health service for LAC has been very positive, with more timely health assessment of children coming to panel and better advice to both prospective adopters and to panel when matches are being considered for children with complex needs.

## **7. Consortium**

**7.1** For 12 years East Sussex has been a member of the South East Regional Consortium together with Brighton and Hove, Bromley, Bexley, Kent and Medway. Brighton and Hove left the consortium in July 2014 and Kent's position has been challenged by their contract with Coram. Medway, Bexley and Bromley have understandably forged links with Central London local authorities. After much discussion East Sussex Adoption Service decided to join a newly formed and much larger consortium – South Central. This consists, amongst others, of Hampshire, Brighton and Hove, Surrey, Oxford, Portsmouth, Berkshire and some independent adoption agencies including Cabrini and PACT. The advantage will be to build closer professional links with a larger number of agencies in the South.

**7.2** In terms of linking and matching children, and providing effective post adoption support, it is anticipated that this will bring distinct advantages. Recent experience during the year of placing children at a distance has shown that it can bring extra pressures and strains in negotiating effective wrap-around services to an adoptive placement if there are difficulties. Membership of the new consortium will bring the benefits both of greater placement choice for the children of East Sussex; and timely matching of East Sussex adopters within the consortium. This will bring additional cost benefit as £27k per placement 'sold' can be recouped. .

## **8. Management Priorities 2015-16**

- To continue the excellent progress in adoption recruitment and continue to promote the outstanding adoption service within and beyond the East Sussex boundary.
- To prioritize and target recruitment for East Sussex children and to maintain a strategy of over recruitment in order to release additional resources to other local authorities and thus generate income for ESCC.
- To strengthen and build on our high national profile and build on the opportunities given to further expand the East Sussex Adoption Service.

- To update and revise policies and procedures in accordance with new regulations and strategy guidance.
- To maintain and extend all Adoption Support Developments including the revised CAMHS contract and close partnerships with the Virtual School.
- To formally embed the new medical service provision across adoption and fostering services.
- To ensure our role in the new consortium brings added value to the service and greater local placement choice for children.

Report to: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **24<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
By: **Director of Children's Services**  
Title of report: **Update report on Health Services for Looked after Children**  
Purpose of report: **To outline and note the progress made in the Health Services for Looked After children**

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***RECOMMENDATION:*** The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Annual Progress report of the Health Service is attached as Appendix 1
- 1.2 There are no increased costs arising from this report.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: none

## 1. Introduction

1.1 There are a number of roles and responsibilities that have to be undertaken effectively to ensure coherent planning for children in our care. For example, the role of the Designated Doctor is contained within statutory guidance and is described as having the strategic oversight of the local health arrangements for Looked After Children. As the responsible Local Authority, ESCC also has a number of key performance indicators that are reported nationally, such as completion of an Initial Health Assessment (IHA) within 28 days of the child entering care.

1.2 There have been longstanding difficulties over many years in terms of capacity and cover for various health roles but during 2013-2014 the health services provided to Looked After Children (LAC) in East Sussex were subject to particular and considerable disruption to the service delivery provided by East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) and GPs. During this period all Initial Health Assessments (IHA's) for LAC were being delivered through a specialist GP and the health care plans (HCP's) were being developed by the LAC nursing team. LAC adoption medicals were being completed by yet another paediatrician with a special interest and expertise in adoption, who acted as Adoption Medical Advisor to the two Adoption and Permanence panels in ESCC. All adult health assessments for adopters and foster carers were being completed by local GP's with specialist advice made available to the Adoption and Permanence panels by the Adoption Medical Advisor, but no routine specialist advice was being made available prospective adopters at the point of a match with a child or to the fostering service to give advice on prospective applicants.

1.2 In summary the service was extremely fragmented and during this period of particular disruption, there were a number of discussions between the commissioner and providers to explore how a statutory minimum service could be maintained. However due to the failure to make suitable cover and contingency arrangements to cover sickness, vacancies and absence, ESHT were unable to cover many of these critical statutory roles. This was made more difficult as each of the health roles and services were working in isolation from each other.

1.2 The impact of this systemic disruption resulted in ESCC being unable to meet its statutory duties in regard to: timely Initial health assessments for LAC, timely adoption medical assessments, and medical advice to the adoption and fostering panels. This was compounded by the absence of the Designated Doctor who was responsible for the strategic oversight of health services for LAC. Clearly this caused a significant dip in performance for ESCC, but it also left children and carers potentially vulnerable in relation to meeting any immediate and future health needs. This poor performance was reported to the commissioners by ESCC staff but any resolution was dependent upon the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) managing the contract with ESHT effectively; and as the local contracted provider, on ESHT prioritising this work and managing their staff, services and provision appropriately.

## 2. Interim arrangements

2.1 In July 2014 the service reached a critical point as there was a considerable backlog of IHAs for children coming into care, performance having fallen to below 30% and a long term illness of the Adoption Medical Advisor led to a gap in advice to the Adoption and Permanence panels. Moreover ESHT were clear that they could not provide the services they were contracted to deliver. Hence it was agreed between ESHT and the CCG's that an approach would be made to Kent Community Healthcare Trust (KCHT) to provide some

interim cover arrangements to clear the backlog and deliver some urgent paediatric advice to the adoption panels. This arrangement ensured that LAC were guaranteed at least the minimum statutory health interventions.

### **3. Integrated Pathway**

3.1 The disruption to services and the interim nature of a solution led the CCG's to identify a number of shortfalls in the system both in terms of inconsistent quality of IHA's and cover arrangements and to look for a more systemic and sustainable solution. These factors made it timely to move from a 'fire fighting' approach and to consider instead an integrated pathway approach for medical input from the Designated Doctor strategic role right through to IHA's and adoption and permanence activity. The aim was to develop a holistic service which was more robust and comprehensive for carers, adopters and most importantly for children and young people in East Sussex. In addition the CCG's were keen to ensure that such a service was commissioned in the most cost effective way possible.

### **4. Organisation of new LAC health services**

4.1 As from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 KCHT were commissioned to deliver a truly integrated approach encompassing IHA's, the Designated Doctor role, adoption medicals and medical advice to both the Adoption and Permanence and the Fostering panels. The Health Care Plans continued to be delivered by ESHT via the LAC nursing team. This solution was built on the successful interim arrangements that had been put in place earlier in 2014, and which were now formally led by a very experienced paediatrician, Dr Siggers, and her team. The referral process remained the same and ESHT and KCHT remained committed to developing a close working partnership and good communication. Given that this was a new arrangement, the CCG's have been monitoring the contract closely to ensure that all of the statutory elements of LAC health services are now being addressed and delivered to a high quality and within timescales; that the pathways for communication are effective and that there is the opportunity for the system to address any operational issues in a timely way.

### **5. Progress to date**

5.1 Feedback has been received from the locality social work teams who have reported that the new arrangements have led to a vastly improved service for ESCC LAC. The Operations Manager (Locality) is confident that the performance around initial assessments and HCP's is now back on track and functioning well. In addition, the Professional Advisors to both the Fostering and Adoption and Permanence Panels have reported that foster carers and social workers have commented very positively about the joined up nature of the service, and particularly on the timeliness and the detailed attention they have received from the new Medical Advisor. There have also been some very pleasing developments in regard to the new service being able to offer adopters the opportunity to meet and discuss a detailed medical appraisal of the health issues and prognosis for any child who has complex medical issues personally or in their background. A number of adopters have reported how helpful this has been in terms of preparing them adequately for a match, and enabling them to be part of making a direct referral for a consultation with a health specialist where necessary.

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Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>24 April 2015</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter</b>

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**     **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.**

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## **1. Background**

1.1 The most recent LAC statistics are attached as Appendix 1. It is important to continue to be aware that the figures are a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore mask considerable activity throughout the months.

## **2. Supporting information**

2.1 Between the end of December and the end of March 2015, there were 6 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, agency foster care numbers have decreased by 11 and agency residential numbers have increased by 1. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has increased by 3.

2.2 The number of children with kinship carers has decreased by 1. We had no parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by 3 at the end of the quarter with higher placement activity in the preceding 2 months. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children.

2.4 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has remained stable. 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.

2.5 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 4 with 18 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.6 At the end of the quarter, no East Sussex child was secured via a welfare route but we had 5 young people in criminal secure placements.

2.7 At the end of the quarter we still have 2 young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. All are supported by social work staff and more work is being done on this in line with the Ofsted Action Plan.

2.8 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget. Additional Thrive funding has now ceased, as has the financial support from the Adoption Reform grant.

## **3. Conclusion**

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and are part of the regular reporting to the Director.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Appendix 1

Accommodation Type	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Total Foster Placements	473	472	478	477	468	460	457	441	444	432	431	433
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>292</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent &amp; Baby</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>
Placed For Adoption	30	26	27	29	33	34	39	42	40	47	48	43
Bed & Breakfast	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	2
Supported People Accommodation	4	4	3	2	2	3	5	6	5	5	3	4
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - East Sussex Home	20	20	22	19	21	20	21	23	22	22	22	21
Residential - Agency Residential Care	16	18	18	19	17	16	17	17	19	19	19	20
Residential - Schools	9	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5
Residential - Secure	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - Other	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	5
Placed With Parent	12	12	14	12	10	8	11	11	11	10	11	11
Hospital/Health Setting	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Absconded	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
<b>Total Looked After</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>

Legal Status Type	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Residence Orders/Child Arrangement Ord	251	251	250	254	260	269	272	276	280	281	282	284
Special Guardianship Orders	272	274	278	283	288	292	294	301	310	319	321	328
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>612</b>

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