



## **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

**FRIDAY, 28 APRIL 2017**

**10.00 am COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, LEWES**

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

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2017. *(Pages 3 - 6)*
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Disclosure of Interests  
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 Urgent items  
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 Exclusion of Press and Public  
To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the next two 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:
  - 6a Acorns at Dorset Road *(Pages 7 - 16)*
  - 6b The Bungalow *(Pages 17 - 26)*
  - 6c Homefield Cottage *(Pages 27 - 46)*
  - 6d Landsdowne Secure Unit *(Pages 47 - 56)*
- 7 Children's Home Regulations 2015, Regulation 44: Inspection reports for the period December 2016 to February 2017:
  - 7a Acorns at Dorset Road *(Pages 57 - 98)*
  - 7b Brodrick House *(Pages 99 - 142)*
  - 7c Hazel Lodge *(Pages 143 - 186)*

- 7d Homefield Cottage (*Pages 187 - 228*)
- 7e Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 229 - 282*)
- 7f The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 283 - 324*)
- 8 Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.
- 9 Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics (*Pages 325 - 332*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services.
- 10 Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

PHILIP BAKER  
Assistant Chief Executive  
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent  
LEWES BN7 1UE

20 April 2017

Contact Hannah Matthews, 01273 335138,

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## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held at County Hall, Lewes on 27 January 2017.

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PRESENT: Councillors Roy Galley (Chair), Jim Sheppard, Rosalyn St. Pierre and Sylvia Tidy

ALSO PRESENT: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care; Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Joint Head of Looked After Children Services; Helen Simmons, Registered Homes Manager (RHM), The Bungalow; Ian Williams, RHM Hazel Lodge; Nigel Hewitt, RHM Lansdowne Secure Children's Homes; Scott Lipa, RHM Brodrick House; Shirin White, RHM Acorns at Dorset Road; Meshelle Carmody, Children in Care Council Coordinator and Placement Support Worker; Children in Care Council (CiCC); Tina Henderson, East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA); Lysette Grosvenor, ESFCA; and Gary Shirley, ESFCA.

### 20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2016

20.1 RESOLVED to agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2016.

### 21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Charles Clark.

### 22 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

22.1 Councillor St Pierre declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 6 (see minute 24) on the agenda. Councillor St Pierre is a member of the Lewes Soroptimists.

### 23 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL

23.1 The Panel received a presentation from two members of the Children in Care Council (CiCC) who spoke about the work they have been involved in and highlighted the following projects:

- **All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings** – the CiCC attended an APPG meeting and heard about the new Family and Social Work Bill, and had a say on how East Sussex could improve outcomes for LAC in PHSE lessons and apprenticeships.
- **Takeover day** – one member of the CiCC was given the opportunity to go to the Children’s Commissioners office and worked in the branding department to help rebrand the Help at Hand advice line;
- **Skills for Fostering** – the CiCC informed the Panel its work with potential new foster carers. This includes helping foster carers to both understand what is like for a young person coming into care and to identify more with young people in care; and
- **Contact Cards** – all children in care are now provided with a contact card containing the details of their Social Worker and Independent Reviewing Officer. This was something which was highlighted by other LAC through the ‘SUSS It’ programme carried out by CiCC members.

23.2 At the request of the CiCC, the Panel agreed to hold an official pledge signing with the group leaders of East Sussex County Council. The pledge outlines the County Councils promises to all children in care and to young people moving on from care to adult life.

23.3 RESOLVED to: commend the work of the CiCC and thank them for their presentation.

## 24 EAST SUSSEX FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

24.1 The Panel considered a report by the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) which presented an update on the work of the charity. Three members of the association were present to introduce the report and highlight the activities undertaken by ESFCA, and the plans for future development. These included:

- **Project inspire, performing arts** – the ESFCA funded a programme run by two experienced tutors to teach a group of young people voice training, movement, and dance.
- **PGL action and adventure** – the ESFCA funded a three day residential trip organised for 27 foster children and 12 adult helpers. Social workers came along to the event which gave them the opportunity to build on their relationships with the foster children;
- **No more black bags** – the ESFCA have purchased 200 suitcases to be distributed to children and young people most in need of luggage;
- **Christmas party** – the ESFCA held a Christmas party for over 100 East Sussex foster children. The Lewes and Eastbourne Soroptimists set up a Christmas present room next door to the party. In this room children were able to pick out and wrap a present to give to their foster carers on Christmas day;
- **Stable connections** – an equine therapy project has been funded by the ESFCA which helps children to work with ‘intuitive horses’ to regulate their emotions, reflect and be calm, and build their confidence and esteem; and
- **Sibling Sunshine project** – sibling sunshine days help to reconnect LAC who are separated from their siblings whilst in care. These events help to create happy memories and build bonds between siblings.

24.2 RESOLVED to: commend the work of the ESFCA and thank them for the annual report.

## 25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for items 8 and 9 on the agenda (see minutes 26 and 27) 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 exception outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

## 26 OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS FOR ACORNS AT DORSET ROAD, BRODRICK HOUSE AND HAZEL LODGE.

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

- (a) Acorns at Dorset Road
- (b) Brodrick House
- (c) Hazel Lodge

26.2 The Panel discussed the positive outcomes of the Ofsted reports.

26.3 RESOLVED to note the reports.

## 27 CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 2015, REGULATION 44: INSPECTION REPORTS FOR AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2016

27.1 The Panel considered Regulation 44 Reports for the period August to November 2016 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 Homes Manager gave an oral update on activity at the home covering the period since the last Panel meeting.

27.3 The Panel discussed the importance of staff training, in particular the training and scrutiny of agency staff. In response to the Panel's comments, Helen Simmons, Registered Homes Manager advised that all newly recruited staff must participate in the East Sussex training package, regardless of any existing qualifications or training experience. This helps to ensure that the East Sussex standards are being met.

27.4 The Panel RESOLVED to note the reports.

## 28 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

28.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined the changes to the numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) in the last quarter. Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care explained that the statistics represented a snap-shot of the activity of the Service at the end of the quarter and that there is considerable activity which goes on throughout the months.

28.2 The Panel were advised on the slight increase of children coming in to care, this rise includes a number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people entering the system via the dispersal scheme. However, despite this increase there has been a positive reduction in the number of children in agency placements.

28.3 The Assistant Director further advised the Panel that there had been two complaints received from East Sussex LAC during the last quarter which were investigated and dealt with appropriately.

28.4 RESOLVED to note the report.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm.

Councillor Roy Galley  
Chair

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Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April 2017</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 report.**

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### **1. Background and supporting information**

1.1 At the end of March 2017 there were three fewer children overall, bringing East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to a total of 564 Looked After Children (LAC). A total of 403 children were in foster care with 64 of those children in agency placements, a decrease of three over the quarter. 21 children were placed for adoption. Four children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters.

1.2 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 37, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

1.3 22 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, a decrease of 2. 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.

1.4 At the end of the quarter 15 children were placed in agency residential placements, a decrease of four placements.

1.5 At the end of the quarter the same three children had remained secured throughout the quarter via a welfare route, one in the context of risk of CSE, one in the context of dangerous substance misuse, and the final child still secured due to extremely challenging behaviour in response to trauma within her birth family. All were in Lansdowne at the end of March and exit planning is underway for all three, although locating suitable placements has been extremely challenging.

1.6 At the end of the period there were no LAC from ESCC in criminal secure placements.

1.7 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has increased by three. ESCC has continued to accept young people via the national dispersal scheme, prioritising young people already physically in placement in East Sussex.

1.8 There were still 327 children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders and 409 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of nine.

1.9 During Q4 of 2016/17 two complaints were received from Looked After Children:

- One was from a young person at Brodrick House who was complaining that a member of staff had removed biscuits from her room whilst cleaning. This was resolved by the RHM meeting with the young person and then writing to confirm that the cleaning was being done as the young person persistently failed to keep her room in a reasonable state. The biscuits were removed due to concerns about the young person's health. Advice was given on healthy living and exercise to ensure the young person's weight was managed appropriately. The complaint was not upheld.
- The second complaint was from a young person at Hazel Lodge who was complaining about another young person and not feeling comfortable or safe around him. The complaint

was resolved following a meeting with the RHM and a letter to the young person which confirmed that the concern about the behaviour of the other young person would be discussed with staff and steps taken to ensure his conduct did not impact on the complainant. A commitment was given to ensuring that the young person felt safe and at home at Hazel Lodge and a copy of the letter was shared with the young person's social worker. The complaint was upheld.

1.10 This is a low number of complaints and numbers have remained steady compared to the previous quarter. Both complaints have been investigated fully and are resolved.

1.11 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

## **2. Conclusion**

2.1 Numbers and costs for LAC have remained reasonably stable and continued close oversight will be maintained.

2.2 A small number of complaints have been received. Both have been investigated fully.

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

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care Tel: 01273 481274

Background documents:

None

## Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/07/2016 and 30/09/2016

Placement Type	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	3	3	3
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	7	7	8
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	9	9	9
H5 - Residential accommodation	5	4	4
K1 - Secure unit	5	4	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	41	43	47
P1 - Placed with own parents	14	14	16
P2 - Independent living	3	2	4
S1 - All Residential schools	6	6	6
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	10
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	28	32	33
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	159	153	152
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	6	6	5
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	234	244	246
Z1 - Other placements	7	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>555</b>

Immigration Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	11	15	16

Legal Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	320	321	321
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	382	385	387



# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2017

Placement Type	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	2	1						
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	5	6	9	12	13	19	18	19
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer							1	1
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	11	10	9	7	7	7	4	5
H5 - Residential accommodation	6	6	6	5	4	7	8	10
K1 - Secure unit	3	2	3	5	4	2	3	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	40	42	38	40	41	47	46	46
P1 - Placed with own parents	17	17	14	15	15	17	20	23
P2 - Independent living	3	5	9	10	13	18	16	15
R1 - NHS/Health Trust								1
R2 - Family centre or mother and baby unit					1	1	1	
R3 - Young Offender Institution or prison	1	1	1					2
S1 - All Residential schools	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	11	11	11	10	10	9
U2 - Foster placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter- FFA								
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	26	25	22	28	32	34	33	34
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	168	168	163	159	153	150	144	141
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	4
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	228	227	225	228	237	230	236	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>567</b>

Appendix A

Immigration Status	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Report run on at by

# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2017

British Citizen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	12	12	10	11	15	18	19	22

Legal Status	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	316	317	318	320	321	321	323	321
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	372	375	384	384	387	391	396	400

	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
	18	15	15	15
	2	1	1	1
	5	5	5	5
	9	7	8	11
	3	3	3	3
	46	45	45	46
	23	22	22	22
Page 331	14	13	13	8
	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2
	5	5	5	5
	9	9	11	11
	1	1	1	1
	36	33	33	26
	142	141	138	135
	3	3	4	4
248	256	257	268	
567	562	564	564	

Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
1	1	1	1

Report run on at by

1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
22	21	24	24

Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17
321	322	325	327
400	405	405	409