



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2016

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

A G E N D A

- 1 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2016 (*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 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:
 - 6a Hazel Lodge (*Pages 7 - 18*)
 - 6b Homefield Cottage (*Pages 19 - 30*)
 - 6c Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 31 - 52*)
 - 6d The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 53 - 68*)
- 7 Children's Home Regulations 2015, Regulation 44: Inspection reports for May - August 2016
 - 7a Acorns at Dorset Road (*Pages 69 - 110*)
 - 7b Brodrick House (*Pages 111 - 156*)
 - 7c Hazel Lodge (*Pages 157 - 208*)

- 7d Homefield Cottage (*Pages 209 - 260*)
- 7e Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 261 - 322*)
- 7f The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 323 - 374*)
- 8 Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.
- 9 Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference and ways of working (*Pages 375 - 376*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
- 10a Looked After Children Annual Report (*Pages 377 - 390*)
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 10b The Virtual School Annual Report including the use of Pupil Premium (*Pages 391 - 400*)
Report by Director of Children's Services
- 11 Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics (*Pages 401 - 404*)
Report by the Director of Children's Services
- 12 Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

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

6 October 2016

Contact Hannah Matthews, 01273 335138.

Email: hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held at Committee Room, County Hall, Lewes on 8 July 2016.

PRESENT Councillors Charles Clark, Roy Galley, Ruth O’Keeffe, Mike Pursglove, Jim Sheppard, and Sylvia Tidy

ALSO PRESENT Liz Rugg, Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care
Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Joint Head of Looked After Children Services
Carole Sykes, Operations Manager – Adoption Team
Adrian Sewell, Operations Manager – Fostering Team
Alex Sutton, Operations Manager – Safeguarding Unit
Roy Noble, Deputy Homes Manager
Janet Fairless, RHM Brodrick House and Homefield Cottage
Helen Simmons, RHM Acorns and The Bungalow
Ian Williams, RHM Hazel Lodge

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

1.1 Councillor Roy Galley was appointed as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2016

2.1 RESOLVED to agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2016.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Sheppard and Peter Charlton. It was noted that Councillor Mike Pursglove was substituting for Councillor Charlton.

3.2 Apologies were also received from Nicky Scott, Operations Manager Residential LAC Services, and Nigel Hewitt RHM Lansdowne Secure Unit.

4 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

4.1 The Panel agreed to exclude the press and public for the next two agenda items on the basis that if they were present there would be disclosure to them of information considered to be exempt by virtue of Category 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual.

5 OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE BUNGALOW - MARCH 2016

5.1 The Panel considered a report received from Ofsted on the service at The Bungalow, Sorrell Drive.

5.2 The Panel discussed the positive outcome of the Ofsted report.

5.3 RESOLVED to note the report.

6 CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 1991, REGULATION 44: INSPECTION REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY TO MAY 2016

6.1 The Panel considered Regulation 44 Reports for February to May 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

6.2 Each Registered Home Manager gave a brief oral update on activity at the home covering the period since the last Panel meeting.

6.3 The Panel RESOLVED to note the reports.

7 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

7.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which presented a Report of the Independent Reviewing Service. Alex Sutton, Operations Manager Safeguarding Unit, highlighted the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO); the new integrated care planning approach designed to be responsive and dynamic to the child's needs; and problem resolution and escalation.

7.2 The Panel were further informed about the greater flexibility of the service whereby children do not have to have twice yearly reviews once they are settled and stable in a placement; and the positive feedback received from the children using the service who feel that their views are listened to and taken forward where possible.

7.3 The Panel discussed the contact cards for children coming into care; the mixture of views and responses from Young People using the IRO service; and the case load of the IRO's.

7.4 RESOLVED to note the report.

8 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FOSTERING SERVICE

8.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined the performance and progress of the East Sussex Fostering Service for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Adrian Sewell, Operations Manager highlighted aspects of the Service's work such as recruitment and retention; savings made from the transfer of carers from other agencies; and the marketing techniques used to promote the Service.

8.2 The Panel were further informed of the training provided to foster carers and the new courses which have been introduced, as well as those which will be developed in 2016/17. The Panel were updated on the partnership work taking place between the East Sussex Fostering Service and East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA), Looked After Children's Mental Health Service (LACAMHS), the Supported Lodgings Team and the Virtual School.

8.3 The Panel discussed: the continuing recruitment strategy and target figures; the supported lodgings service; the support provided to foster families; and the work being done to support Care Leavers.

8.4 The Panel congratulated the East Sussex Fostering Service on their hard work.

8.5 RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

9 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE SERVICE

9.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which outlined the performance and progress of the East Sussex Adoption and Permanence Service for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Carole Sykes, Operations Manager highlighted aspects of the Service's work such as the continued success in recruitment activity; the Adoption Support Service; and the partnership work which has taken place with the AdCAMHS.

9.2 The Panel discussed: the Service's decision to pause on accepting applications from potential adopters to adopt babies because of the need to concentrate on recruitment of carers for older children and sibling groups; the placement of sibling groups; and the difficulties faced in managing contact with siblings and birth families.

9.3 RESOLVED to note the report.

10 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

10.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on Looked After Children (LAC) statistics.

10.2 The Panel were informed by Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care on the slight rise in the number of East Sussex LAC since the last quarter; and were provided with an update on the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) within East Sussex. The Panel were further informed on the national dispersal system which came into effect on the 1st July, and the impact this will have on the service.

10.3 RESOLVED to note the report.

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Report to: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of meeting: 14 October 2016

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Corporate Parenting Panel Terms of Reference and ways of working

Purpose: To note the proposals to amend the Council's Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Panel are recommended to note the proposal to amend the Council's Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel as set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

1 Background

1.1 In April 2015 the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 came in to force. These Regulations introduced new provisions for the inspection of Children's Homes, which East Sussex County Council have complied with since that time.

1.2 However, the Terms of Reference listed in the Council's Constitution for the Corporate Parenting Panel need updating. As a result, a report is being taken to the Governance Committee recommending that Members of the East Sussex County Council approve altering the Terms of Reference in the Constitution. This alteration will ensure the terms of reference reflect the updated requirements for home visits as set out in the 2015 regulations. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Corporate Parenting Panel that this item is being put before the Governance Committee on 15 November 2016 and will then be taken on to full Council on 6 December 2016.

2 Supporting Information.

2.1 Prior to the 2015 Regulations coming into force, the inspection of children's homes was carried out in-house via the Safeguarding Unit. Since then visits to children's homes have been carried out by an independent visitor from Aidhour, Executive Social Work Management Services.

2.2 Regulation 44 of the 2015 Regulations sets out the following requirements for visits and reports by an Independent Person:

1) The registered person must ensure that an independent person visits the children's home at least once each month.

(4) The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether —

(a) children are effectively safeguarded; and

(b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

2.3 It is proposed that the revised terms of reference will read as follows (with amendments highlighted in tracked changes):

- i) To discharge the statutory responsibility of the County Council by receiving copies of reports of monthly visits to East Sussex children's homes by an off-line manager [Regulation ~~22~~ 44]
- (ii) To receive inspection reports from ~~the East Sussex Inspection Unit and~~ Ofsted concerning East Sussex homes.
- (iii) To monitor progress in meeting high standards in residential care for children in East Sussex homes.
- (iv) To monitor and participate in programmes seeking the views of looked after children in residential and foster care.
- (v) To receive the views of young people leaving care.
- (vi) To receive a report summarising complaints made by looked after children as part of the regular quarterly reports on statistics. ~~To receive a report summarising complaints made by looked after children on a six monthly basis.~~
- (vii) To meet annually with representatives of the East Sussex Foster Care Association and other foster parents.
- (viii) To meet annually with representatives of the Adopted Families Group
- (ix) To receive reports on how the health needs of looked after children are being met and their educational achievements.
- (x) To provide an annual report to the Cabinet.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The terms of reference as set out in the Council's Constitution for the Corporate Parenting Panel require updating to reflect important changes introduced by the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Hannah Matthews

Telephone Number: 01273 335138

Email: hannah.matthews@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All Members of East Sussex County Council

Report to: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of meeting: 14 October 2016

Report of: The Director of Children's Services

Title: Annual Progress Report of Looked After Children's Services
1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Purpose: To outline the performance of the Looked After Children's Service
between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Background

1.1 The Annual Report is attached as appendix 1. At present the full comparative national data is still not available and so an update will be provided to the next Corporate Parenting Panel so that local performance can be assessed in that context.

2. Budget Implications

2.1 The services for LAC are supported via core funding from the CSA budget, a small proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium for additional education support for children.

3. Recommendations and Reasons for them

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

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officers:

Sally Carnie Head of Looked After Children's Services, 01323 747197

Teresa Lavelle-Hill Head of Looked After Children's Services, 01323 747197

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - LAC Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Listed within appendix 1 are the following annexes:

Annex 1 - Annual Progress Report of East Sussex Fostering Service 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Annex 2 – Annual Progress Report of East Sussex Adoption and Permanence Service 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Annex 3 - IRO Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Annex 4 - Missing People Annual Report

Annex 5 - LACMHS Audit 2015 -16

Local Members: All

Background Documents: Annexes 1- 5 as listed above.

1 Looked after Children Trend Data

1.1 On 31 March 2016 there were 544 Looked After Children (LAC) in ESCC; this represents a reduction of 4 children (0.7%) as compared to 2014/15 and a rate of 51.7 per 10,000 population. This is below the IDACI expected rate (a measure in terms of population profiles and deprivation levels) of 56.6 and the 2015 England average of 60.

1.2 There is a strong link between rates of LAC and the rate of children subject to Child Protection (CP) Plans. The rate of children subject to CP plans has shown a marginal reduction from 44.5 per 10,000 in 2014-15 to 44.2 in 2015/16. This is still higher than the IDACI expected rate of 40.7. All IDACI data is based on national Children in Need (CIN) and LAC data for 2015, as the 2016 data is not yet available.

1.3 The LAC data only ever gives a snapshot of the children moving in and out of the system at a fixed date each month/year and considerable activity sits beneath it. The data is referred to as 'churn'. This cohort of children will come in and out of the system within the year, or some may come in and stay whilst others leave. Behind this group sits the cohort of children who are stable for at least one year. It has been calculated that there is a churn figure of 185 for 2015/16 which, added to the total number of LAC, equates to the service working with 729 children. This shows that the service worked with more children overall during the course of 2015/2016, and that the churn rate was higher than for the previous year (179 2014/15, 185 2015/16).

1.4 There was a significant increase in admissions to care from 159 in 2014/15 to 190 during 2015/16, and there were some interesting changes to the trends for each age group. The number of 0 – 5 year olds admitted to care increased during this period from 77 in 2014/15 to 94 in 2015/16, but there was a reduction in admissions of 6 -12 year olds from 48 in 2014/15 to 43 in 2015/16, and an increase in admissions of children aged 13+ from 34 in 2014/15 to 53 in 2015/16.

1.5 At year end in 2015/16 there was an overall increase in the number of LAC discharged from care, 191 from 185 in 2014/15. The number of 0 - 12 year olds discharged from care has fallen slightly from 121 in 2014/15 to 117 in 2015/16. This was made up of 88 0-5years olds and 29 6-12 year olds. There was a further increase in the 13+ age group from 64 discharged in 2014/15 to 74 in 2015/16.

1.6 These data together show a picture of an overall increase in the numbers of LAC worked with during the course of the year. There was a high level of activity with the cohort of 0-5 year olds given the increased admissions and discharges. This is reflective of timely social work to protect children, with 56 children becoming subject to Adoption, Special Guardianship or Residence Orders and 32 returning to their birth family at discharge. The 5-12 year old cohort showed marginally fewer admissions to care, and significantly fewer discharges, producing a net increase over the course of the year. This is reflective of ESCC's permanence policy in that when children become looked after they tend to remain in permanent placements. The 13+ cohort showed both higher numbers of admissions and discharges, and this relates primarily to relatively small increases of children in a range of categories: children remanded to care, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and a number of complex, chaotic children often subject to CSE risks. The increased statutory activity both in relation to admission and discharge plans was particularly challenging given the reduced social work workforce.

1.7 The end of year snapshot data showing LAC placements were as follows (2015 figures in brackets):-

with foster carers	440	(433)
of these: in house carers	313	(305)

kinship carers	37	(34)
agency carers	90	(94)
placed for adoption	31	(43)
in supported lodgings	7	(6)
in ESCC children's homes	18	(21)
in agency children's homes	26	(21)
in agency special schools	1	(5)
placed with own parents	16	(11)
youth custody/secure unit	5	(5)
Hospital/NHS establishment	0	(0)
Absconded	0	(3)

2. Fostering

2.1 As at 31st March 2016 there were 440 LAC living with foster carers. Of these, 350 were living with ESCC approved foster carers and 90 with agency carers. This represented a decrease of 4% of LAC in agency placements compared to the previous year. In addition to the 350 LAC placed with in-house foster carers, 18 young people (over 18) were still in placement with their foster carers under the 'Staying Put' arrangements, and 32 children were living with Special Guardians who were previously ESCC foster carers. In effect the service was supporting 400 children in family placements against 386 in 2014/15.

2.2 The number of foster carers approved in 2015/16 was 26 households offering 44 placements, a marked reduction from 2014/15 where 41 households were approved offering 62 placements. This downturn is reflective of a national trend across all fostering agencies be they Local Authority, Independent, or Voluntary sector. There were generally fewer households applying to become foster carers and those who were already approved were reporting that they were being asked to care for more traumatised children with increasingly complex behaviours. This in turn, resulted in carers feeling very stretched and exhausted. Fostering capacity reached saturation point in the South East and at times the placement team found the market unable to respond to the demand for fostering placements of any kind, even agency carers. During 2015/16 the in-house service suffered a loss of 24 foster carers largely for personal reasons and due to changes in circumstances. This represented 8% of the total in-house resource and although it was an increase from 2.3% in 2014/15, it continued to be below the national average of 12%. This trend will need to be carefully monitored, given the limited supply and reported exhaustion of carers.

2.3 Supported Lodgings carers provided a number of step-down placements for children from in-house residential and foster placements. There were 32 households providing 49 placements in 2015/16 for young people across the county. In addition, 16 new households were recruited, 9 were approved by year end, and a further 6 were still underway. Four of the supported lodgings providers were reapproved during the year with a dual registration (hybrid) this enabled them to offer more flexible care placements to younger more complex/challenging young people before they became 16.

Please see Annex 1 for full Fostering Service Annual Report 2014-15.

3. Physical and Mental Health

3.1 As anticipated in the 2014/15 LAC Annual Report, the performance of initial health assessments during 2015/16 remained poor due to the significant disruption to the service provided by East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT) during 2014 and the performance measure being based on a rolling year. The proportion of initial health assessments completed on time, fell again from 53% in 2014/15 to 49% in 2015/16. However, 62% were completed in 21-24 days and 75% in 25-30 days. As of November 2014, Kent Health Care Trust (KHCT) was commissioned to deliver a fully integrated offer encompassing: initial health assessments, the designated doctor role, adoption medicals and medical services to both the Adoption and Permanence, and Fostering Panels. Delivery of the health care plans continued to be

commissioned through ESHT via the LAC nursing team. Despite the performance issues with timeliness there was very positive feedback regarding the quality of the written health assessments and of the overall medical advice.

3.2 The LAC Mental Health Service (LACMHS) received 70 new referrals during the year 2015/16, all of which were accepted and an initial consultation offered. A number of children were also seen urgently due to the severity of the symptoms they presented such as suicidal thoughts and/or serious self-harm, depression or psychotic symptoms. In addition, there was also a cohort of LAC in receipt of on-going therapeutic support such as individual therapy, dyadic therapy (child and carer together), systemic therapy and/or consultation to the foster carer and network. At one point there were 99 LAC in receipt of this service. LACMHS also provided:

- Two Therapeutic Parenting Groups (working with the carers of 16 young people, their Social Workers and Supervising Social Workers)
- Weekly consultation to Homefield, Broderick, Hazel Lodge residential children homes
- Weekly consultation to the Care Leavers service
- Monthly 'drop in' surgeries to the Fostering Service and each of the three LAC teams
- Two Participation days for service users (children, young people and their carers)
- Mental health services commissioned by NHS England to Landsdowne Secure Unit, including sessions of a child and adolescent psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, and mental health nurse.

3.3 The work of LACMHS was highly regarded by carers, professional staff and children alike. However, the increasing complexity of the LAC cohort and the demand for intensive on-going support to LAC and their networks resulted in increased waiting times for access to on-going therapeutic interventions. During 2016/17 consideration should be given to extending this service.

For a more detailed quantitative and qualitative analysis see Annex 5 LACMHS Audit 2015 -16, LAC in Fostering and Residential.

4. Adoption and Permanence

4.1

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
1. Number of Children Adopted	16	44	57	43	45
2. Number of Adoption Matches (children)	41	53	50	56	32
3. Number of Permanent Fostering Matches (children)	26	10	10	7	10
4. Number of East Sussex Adoptive Matches (children)	28	44	40	33	26
5. Number of Consortium Adoptive Matches (children)	2	1	1	6	0
6. Number of Inter-Agency Matches (children):					
Permanence:	10	2	4	3	2
Adoption:	11	8	9	17	6
7. Number of Prospective Adopters Approved (households) *	21	39	44	50	41

8. Number of Permanent Carers Approved (households)	7	4	8	4	2
9. Number of Children Approved for Adoption up to 31 st March 2016	78	69	52	43	53
10. Number of children Approved for Permanence up to 31 st March 2016	33	17	24	26	14
11. Number of Approved Adopters waiting to be Matched	12	16	17	20	22
12. Number of Disruptions presented to Panel: Permanence: Adoptions:	1 (during intros)	1	1	0	0 1

4.2 The number of children with a plan for adoption increased from 43 in 2014/15 to 53 in 2015/16. This scale of increase was not reflected nationally; indeed many Adoption Agencies reported that the number of approvals for adoption had significantly decreased in favour of Special Guardianship Orders. Locally however, the courts responded to a clear Government directive which suggested that adoption should continue to be promoted at the earliest opportunity as a realistic permanence option for young children. During 2015/16 28 children were matched with local adopters, with only 2 sibling pairs placed out of county giving a total of 32 children matched in the 12 month period. There was also a marked rise in the number of sibling groups with complex permanence plans, some of which involved adoption for the younger children and permanent foster placement for the older children. Furthermore, the Adoption Scorecard issued by the Department for Education (DfE) evidenced that ESCC placed children for adoption more speedily than the national average, achieving placement in 223 days.

4.3 During 2015/16 the agency received 287 enquiries about adopting with ESCC and 81 requests were received for registration of interest forms. The conversion rate from enquiry to registration was 28%, which is a drop compared to 34% in 2014/15, however this still compares well with the Coram BAAF suggested national figures of around 10%. There was also a decrease in the number of adopter households approved from 50 in 2014/15 to 41 in 2015/16. In line with the national picture, there was an increasing mismatch between adopters wishes compared with the profile of children needing placement. Many of the children identified with a plan for adoption had experienced domestic violence, trauma and loss, and were likely to have ongoing and complex therapeutic, post adoption support needs. During this period it was enormously beneficial to apply to the Adoption Support Fund with an identified therapeutic support package for adopters and their families. East Sussex made 64 applications to the fund and received payment of £219,965.80. During 2015/16 the Government announced a commitment to maintain this fund until the end of this parliament.

4.4 The individually commissioned therapeutic support was complemented by the AdCAMHS service which offered dedicated therapy and consultation to adopters and their children throughout 2015/16. There has been a significant increase in demand for this service and despite being commissioned to work with 40 families, at year end there were 68 cases open to the service. In addition, the excellent links with the Virtual School provided adoptive families with support for educational and school-based issues, in order to promote the educational achievements of adopted children within East Sussex. The extensive support offered within East Sussex, both pre and post adoption enabled a significant number of older children with

more complex needs to be placed for adoption who would otherwise have remained in fostering placements. The service has continued to be ambitious for this cohort and robust in family finding.

Please see Annex 2 for the Adoption Service full Annual Report.

5. Residential Services

5.1 In October 2015 Lansdowne Secure Unit (LSU) was inspected and the home was judged to be "Good" overall. A further interim inspection during 2015/16 however was not carried out. It should be noted that the children placed in LSU continued to display violent and extreme self-harm and suicidal behaviours. This impacted significantly on the staff team in terms of increased levels of stress, absence and vacancy levels. During 2015/16 there was a significantly higher number of East Sussex LAC placed in LSU than in previous years. This was the result of a number of children in the group homes exhibiting high levels of risk taking behaviours particularly in relation to sexual exploitation, drug misuse, mental health issues and violence.

5.2 In April 2015, the DfE introduced revised Children Homes Regulations 2015 and new Quality Standards 2015. Simultaneously, Ofsted introduced a new framework for the inspection of children homes. From September 2015, 3 ESCC children's homes received an overall rating of "Requires Improvement" by Ofsted. A robust residential improvement plan was put in place and this, together with a challenging dialogue with Ofsted, resulted in these 3 group homes receiving "Improved Effectiveness" in the following interim inspections. This was the highest rating possible in an interim inspection. During 2015/16, a high proportion of young people with extremely complex and challenging needs were placed in the 3 group homes. At times, these young people displayed risk taking behaviours which resulted in increased levels of physical and verbal abuse to both young people and staff. This in turn impacted on the service being able to maintain sufficient staffing levels in the homes due to either injury or stress. Vigorous efforts were made to recruit sufficient staff but it remained a challenge throughout the year. This was further compounded by Ofsted's expectations that all temporary and agency staff were required to have a QCF Level 3 qualification prior to being deployed. Additional management capacity was agreed and recruited to by year end to try and manage the service more robustly. Staff and managers worked closely with other professionals including colleagues from CAMHS, U19 Substance Misuse, Youth Offending Team, Missing People, WISE (What is Sexual Exploitation?), and the Virtual School.

6. Care Leavers Service

6.1 At the end of 2015/16, the service was working with 226 care leavers; 70 16 - 17 year olds and 156 18 - 24 year olds. A significant proportion of this cohort presented highly complex behaviours with a range of challenging safeguarding issues. In addition, the service piloted a 'through care' model whereby those younger LAC with complex challenging behaviours were referred to the service at an earlier stage with the aim of establishing a relationship with a care leaving specialist, to help plan a more seamless transition into independence. There had been some success with this model at year end, with a number of children who responded very well to the different approach and more empowering ethos. However, it was not formally evaluated at that point.

6.2 The Care2Work strategic multi agency board has implemented a range of developments designed to improve the skills of care leavers and to ensure a successful transition into education and employment. The action plan was reviewed in 2015/16 and it was noted that there had been a significant impact on this cohort of young people. The programme for 2016/17 will aim to consolidate and embed the good practice already established.

6.3 As of 31st March 2016 of LAC who were in continuous care for at least 12 months before sitting their GCSE examinations 89% of 16 – 17 year olds (year 12) were in education, training and employment (EET); 78% of 17 - 18 year olds (year 13) were EET. This cohort included

care leavers who had significant learning disabilities and who were managed within the Transition Service. Of all eligible care leavers, 22% (24/107) were at University. This performance showed improvement in every measure.

6.4 The number and range of accommodation options for care leavers remained static during 2015/16. Particular emphasis was placed on encouraging care leavers to remain with their foster carers in “Staying Put” arrangements either in foster care or in Supported Lodgings. Supporting People providers continued to offer a range of Foyer type accommodation across the county – Newhaven, Eastbourne, Hastings and Hailsham. In addition, the partnership between the Care Leavers Service and YMCA Eastbourne, continued to support a 3 bedroom flat which is staffed at evenings and weekends. However, providing sufficient accommodation for the most chaotic and challenging young people continued to be problematic and on the 30th March 2016 there were 5 care leavers living in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, 3 were aged 16 - 17, and 2 were over 18 years old. Clearly this type of accommodation is unsuitable for care leavers. It is only used in emergency situations where the young person has completely exhausted all alternative accommodation options. Any decision to place a young person in emergency accommodation must be authorised by an Assistant Director and accompanied with a clear risk assessment. A wrap around package of support is identified and regularly reviewed whilst suitable alternative accommodation is sought. Most young people are only in bed and breakfast for short periods.

7. Performance

7.1 The 2015/16 national data has not yet been published by the DfE, therefore this section does not benchmark the performance of ESCC against other local authorities and statistical neighbours. However, these data do show that good performance was at least maintained in most areas during 2015/16. There were some improvements in adoption timeliness, and notably in care leaver performance in relation to suitable accommodation and EET. But there was a dip in performance for NI63 (3 or more placement moves), nonetheless it remains below the national rate for 2014/15. The evidence in section 1, which demonstrated increased numbers of LAC worked with during the year did not impact on the overall rate of LAC which remained unchanged. Educational outcomes for LAC continued to improve overall, especially at KS4. Good progress was supported by additional home tuition funded through Pupil Premium. For overall performance of LAC educational outcomes in 2015 please see the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report in Annex 3 and The Virtual School Annual Report 14 October 2016 - Agenda Item 10b.

The indicator value has improved/increased with a ↑ and where it has dipped with a ↓

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
NI 58	Emotional & Behavioural Health of children in care	13.4 ↑	15.4 ↓	13.9	15.1 ↓	13.9	14.3 ↑	14.0
Adoption Scorecard 1	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted. (3 year average)	517 days ↑	520 days ↑	593 days	536 days ↑	628 days	538 days ↑	647 days
Adoption	Average time	223	190	223	199	217	168	210

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
Scorecard 2	between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match with an adoptive family (3 year average)	days ↓	days ↑	days	days ↓	days	days ↑	days
Adoption Scorecard 3	% of children who wait less than 16 months between entering care & moving in with their adoptive family (3 year average)	59% ↑	57% ↑	47%	54% ↑	51%	53% ↓	49%
NI62 Placements 1	Number of children looked after with 3 or more placements during the year	10.8% ↓	9.7% ↓	10.0%	8.9% ↑	10.9%	12.4% ↓	11.3%
NI63 Placements 2	% of LAC under 16 who've been lac for 2.5 years or more & in the same placement for 2 years or placed for adoption	64.0% ↔	64.0% ↑	68.0%	57.4% ↓	66.5%	57.5% ↓	66.8%
Placements 3	% of LAC at 31 st March placed outside LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live	9.4% ↑	10.0% ↓	12.5%	8.7% ↑	12.2%	9.2% ↑	12.2%
Leaving Care 2 <i>* see note below</i>	% of former relevant young people aged 17-21 who were in education, employment or training	62.4% ↑	52.6% ↓	47.8%	55.0%	45.0%	n/a	n/a
Leaving Care 3	% of former relevant young people aged 17-21 who were in suitable accommodation	81.7% ↑	74.3% ↓	80.7%	85.3%	77.6%	n/a	n/a
Thrive PI	Rate of Children	51.7	51.7	60.0	54.5	60.0	57.3	59.8

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
9	looked after per 10,000 population aged under 18	↔	↑		↑		↑	
PAF C19	Average of the % of children looked after who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months who had an annual assessment and their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12 months.	92.8% ↑	92.6% ↓	87.7%	93.5% ↑	86.4%	89.9% ↓	84.7%
PAF C81	Final warnings, reprimands and convictions of lac	3.8% ↔	3.8% ↓	5.2%	1.8% ↑	5.6%	5.7% ↑	6.2%

* *Leaving Care 2 Indicator – this is calculated using data collected at the time of each young person’s 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday.*

8. The Virtual School

8.1 The Virtual School for LAC maintained a core staffing establishment during 15/16, supporting the education of all East Sussex LAC, care leavers and adopted children wherever they were educated. The Pupil Premium enabled the school to enhance its provision to schools, carers, individual LAC and recruit a bank of specialist tutors. In addition, the Head of the Virtual School fostered excellent working relationships across the council and the local community which resulted in LAC being prioritised for a range of complementary services.

For further information on the work of the Virtual School see The Virtual School Annual Report attached as Agenda Item 10b.

9. LAC who are Missing from Care and who are at risk of Children’s Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

9.1 Progress continued to be made both on a strategic and operational level for all children missing and at risk of CSE. The Multi Agency Children’s Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) Action Plan 2015/16 demonstrated significant progress throughout the year in relation to the four strands of Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue, and was reported regularly to the LSCB. MACSE operational practice guidance was developed for all staff and managers and took account of learning from local practice, audit and national research. It covered:

- Pathways for advice and referral
- Assessing risk
- Safety planning for children
- Understanding barriers to disclosure for children vulnerable to or experiencing CSE

- Identifying perpetrators
- Proactive use of legislation
- Additional vulnerabilities for Looked After Children
- Services and ongoing support for victims and their families (including witness support)

9.2 The development of the MACSE response within the Multi Agency Screening Hub (MASH) provided a clear and consistent pathway for all CSE referrals. It was further strengthened by the introduction of increased management capacity to chair all CSE strategy discussions, including those for Looked After Children.

9.3 Locally the Return Home Interview (RHI) service was commissioned from the national charity, Missing People. In April 2016 this was extended to incorporate all the Sussex authorities via a three year contract. The commissioning process and contract management was led by ESCC. Missing People provide quarterly reports and the end of year report was scrutinised by the LSCB on the 28th April 2016. The primary focus was to capture all RHI data required for inspection and statutory returns. It is hoped that this will reduce the risks of our most vulnerable children by enabling strategies to be developed in a timely manner.

9.3 In 2015/16 there were 40 LAC with missing episodes, 16 of whom were missing more than once. There were also 18 LAC who were absent, not where they should be but we knew where they were, and 8 of these were absent more than once. In terms of periods of absence, there were 56 occasions when this cohort of LAC were missing for more than 24 hours, 39 times they were missing for more than 48 hours and 15 times they were missing for more than 5 days. They were all actively tracked by the Police and Children's Services staff. Risk assessments were reviewed on these high profile young people and safety plans put in place.

9.4 Of the 40 LAC who went missing, 19 were female and 21 male, and 18 were aged 16 and above. The data suggested that out of the total missing LAC cohort, 31 episodes were recorded where risk of sexual exploitation was a significant factor.

9.4 Please see Annex 4 for the Missing People Annual Report.

10. Inspections

10.1 The inspection outcomes for the residential homes during 2015/16 were as follows:

- Homefield: full inspection was judged as overall "Requires Improvement" 30/09/15. Interim inspection judged as "Improved Effectiveness" 27/01/16.
- Brodrick: full inspection was judged as overall "Requires Improvement" 14/10/15. Interim Inspection was judged as "Improved Effectiveness" 01/03/16.
- Hazel Lodge: full inspection was judged as overall "Requires Improvement" 09/09/15. Interim inspection judged as "Improved Effectiveness" 04/03/16.
- The Bungalow: full inspection was judged as overall "good" 03/012/15. Interim inspection was judged as "Improved Effectiveness" 24/03/16.
- Acorns: full inspection was judged as overall "good" 17/12/15. Interim inspection was judged as "Sustained Effectiveness" 23/03/16.
- Lansdowne Secure Unit: full inspection was judged as overall "Good" 06/10/15.

11. Corporate Parenting Panel

11.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel met quarterly during 2015/16 to scrutinise the performance of all services in relation to LAC and Care Leavers, paying particular attention to outcomes. It also received presentations from the CICC, from the East Sussex Foster Care Association and from the Adopted Families Group. The reports outlined below were presented and considered

April 2015:

- Annual progress report of the East Sussex Fostering Service
- Annual progress report of the East Sussex Adoption and Permanence Service
- Looked After Children (LAC) Health Service Update
- Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics
- Children's Home Regulations 1991, Regulation 33: Inspection reports for September, October and November 2014 for the following children's homes:
 - Acorns at Dorset Road
 - Brodrick House
 - Hazel Lodge
 - Homefield Cottage
 - Lansdowne Secure Unit
 - The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

10 July 2015:

- THRIVE – end of programme review
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2014/15
- Children's Home Regulations 1991, Regulation 33: Inspection reports for March and April 2015 for the following children's homes:
 - Acorns at Dorset Road
 - Brodrick House
 - Hazel Lodge
 - Homefield Cottage
 - Lansdowne Secure Unit
 - The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive
- Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics
- Video presentation of the East Sussex County Council fostering recruitment advert

16 October 2015:

- Children in Care Council – presentation
- Children's Home Regulations 1991, Regulation 33: Inspection reports for May, June and July 2015 for the following children's homes:
 - Acorns at Dorset Road
 - Brodrick House
 - Hazel Lodge
 - Homefield Cottage
 - Lansdowne Secure Unit
 - The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive
- Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Trafficked Children and Families with No Recourse to Public Funds
- Looked After Children Annual Report 2014-15
- The Virtual School Annual Report including the use of Pupil Premium
- East Sussex Foster Care Association Annual Report

29 January 2016:

- Ofsted Inspection reports for the following
 - Brodrick House
 - Hazel Lodge
 - Homefield Cottage
 - Lansdowne Secure Unit

- Children's Home Regulations 1991, Regulation 33: Inspection reports for August, September, October and November 2015 for the following children's homes:
 - Acorns at Dorset Road
 - Brodrick House
 - Hazel Lodge
 - Homefield Cottage
 - Lansdowne Secure Unit
 - The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive
- Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics
- Adopted Families Group
- Update for Unaccompanied Asylum seeking children

12. Conclusion

12.1 Overall the LAC service has performed consistently well during 2015/16, with continued emphasis on the safe reduction of the number of LAC in the system and on the delivery of efficiency savings following the end of both Thrive funding and of the Adoption Reform Grant. This was achieved whilst good outcomes for LAC and Care Leavers were also maintained.

12.2 The challenge for 2016/17 will be to continue to ensure that the right children are in the right placements for the right amount of time and that we secure the best outcomes possible within the available resources.

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Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 October 2016
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title of Report:	The Virtual School Annual Report including report on the use of the Pupil Premium
Purpose of Report:	To report on the work of the Virtual School 2015 – 2016 and on educational outcomes for children who are Looked After by East Sussex County Council, and the use of Pupil Premium for Looked After Children (LAC).

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Background

1.1 The Virtual School (VS) consists of a team who work with Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Foster Carers to support the education of all East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Looked After Children (LAC) and formerly LAC wherever they are educated.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 See Appendix 1

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 The East Sussex Virtual School is recognised as an example of good practice by the DfE and continues to influence national policy (for example, statutory guidance on Promoting the Education of Looked after Children published last summer).

3.1 The Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children continues to be managed as it has been over the last three years in a non-bureaucratic easily understood and accessible way.

3.2 The Grant will be used to improve educational outcomes, reduce exclusions, improve attendance and reduce the numbers of care leavers who are not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).

3.3 This will be achieved by supporting Personal Education Plan (PEP) targets, developing the 1:1 tutor programme, providing additional funding for schools for training and resources and ensuring wherever possible the security and consistency of school placements.

3.4 That Pupil Premium for LAC will "not be used to provide central services that would reasonably be expected to be funded by the local authority to comply with their duty to promote the educational achievement of the children they look after" (*Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15, DfE*).

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Anna Brookes

Local Member(s): All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

1. Summary of Virtual School Developments and Achievements

1.1 The Virtual School (VS) consists of a team who work with Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Foster Carers to support the education of all East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Looked After Children (LAC) and formerly LAC wherever they are educated.

1.2 The VS is led by a Virtual Headteacher and a Head of School, the core team consists of 10 members of staff (7.5 FTE) plus a number of claims only staff, mainly Tutors and Teaching Assistants who work directly with children funded through Pupil Premium (PP). In addition there are 2 posts funded by PP that extend the remit of the VS to support adopted children and Care Leavers. The whole team consists of 3 Teachers, 2 Education Support Workers, 5 Caseworkers and 2 Administrators. The team was based in Hailsham Community College until April 2016 but is now based at Dunbar Drive in Hailsham although most of the team have adopted an agile approach and therefore work from a variety of bases.

1.3 The core services provided by the VS include monitoring and evaluating the attendance and progress of all ESCC LAC, to provide a named Caseworker for every East Sussex school and for any school outside of East Sussex that has an ESCC LAC on their roll. The VS provides advice, training and support for all those who are involved in a LACs education and will challenge any professional that makes decisions that may impede a child's educational progress. In addition to these core functions the VS manages the LAC PP which enables significant additional support for learning.

1.4 The VS organises a number of residential and day courses for LAC including a 3 day Year 6 transition residential, a 2 day Year 11 revision residential, spring school in the Easter holidays for Years 7,8 and 9 and weekly summer holiday activities for Early Years children. These residential activities provide the children and young people with specific skills and experiences, and at the same time ensure that VS staff build relationships with the young people that they support.

1.5 The Annual Children in Care Awards evening celebrated the many outstanding achievements this year. Just like the Oscars we invited nominations and all nominees and their carers were invited. Award categories were for Educational Achievement (Attainment and Progress), Making a Positive Contribution and Gifted and Talented. Award winners included two Year 11 students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) who achieved 5+ A*-C including English and Maths (including one who achieved an A in Maths). Care Leavers too received awards including one now at University having achieved excellent BTEC and Apprenticeship experience and another, also at University following excellent A level results. Enormous thanks should be extended to Bede's, a partner boarding school, who hosted and fully funded the event including a sit down dinner and entertainment. We continue to work in close partnership with Bede's who provide boarding places for a number of our children and allow us to use their facilities during the school holidays.

1.6 ESCC VS continues to be seen as a model of good practice nationally and we await with interest a DfE report into the effectiveness of VSs which we have contributed to. We also continue to work more closely with Ofsted and are keen to support the inspection process through, for example, providing inspectors with the corporate parents view of how schools support LAC to achieve their potential.

2. Virtual School priorities for the school year 15/16

2.1 To expand and increase the quality of the tutor programme and to recruit more skilled staff to provide direct support for children and schools

- A significant programme is in place of directly appointing, training and managing a team of Specialist Teachers. Currently 17 Tutors and 4 Support Staff are employed directly on a claims only basis. The cost of this programme since September 2014 has been approximately £155,000. 260 young people have benefited from this programme which contributes significantly towards academic progress, particularly in English and Maths and also improves attitudes to learning. All LAC are offered, and are encouraged to take up 1:1 tuition.

- The use of specialist staff to work with the most challenging young people to prevent permanent exclusion and reduce the likelihood of fixed term exclusions has also been expanded. Although the impact on overall exclusion levels and persistent absence has yet to be seen in the overall data, some very powerful individual case studies can illustrate its effectiveness on an individual basis.

2.2 To improve the skills and support for Designated Teachers and other school staff:

- The VS continues to support schools access to the Thrive programme, a therapeutic programme used in schools. 21 primary schools, 12 secondary schools and 2 special schools have staff who have undertaken the programme. In East Sussex there are now 50 Thrive practitioners across schools and Children's Service teams, 11 in ESBAS, 1 in adoption support, 1 in placement support and 1 in Lansdowne Secure Unit. The Thrive programme helps to develop a common approach and a common language in supporting all vulnerable children to access learning in schools
- Attachment training for school staff has been delivered in 70 schools over the last 4 years. 110 Early Years Practitioners have received attachment training. Over 120 foster carers have attended training by the VS in looking at ways to support the education of the children and young people they care for. Training specifically tailored to the needs of Designated Teachers continues to be offered although the uptake is low. The offer of coaching and support to Designated Teachers and key adults has been available but again the uptake remains low

2.3 To increase the capacity of the VS through working with and through other Children's Services teams

- There has been a very significant improvement with inter-team working with teams across Children's Services that work with, or make decisions that may impact on, LAC. There are now named designated officers, who understand the nature of the care system and share a common understanding of their duties as corporate parents. There are named officers in ESBAS (Behaviour Support Service), ISEND (Inclusion, SEN and Disability), School Admissions, Transport and the Speech and Language team.

A significant priority for the VS two years ago was to recruit an Educational Psychologist (EP) to work 50% of the time within the VS and 50% of the time with EP Team. This has so far proved elusive. Currently the VS is able to access 50 hours of EP time and, whilst this is extremely helpful, there are limitations on how this time is used.

2.4 To expand work experience placements and apprenticeship programme for Care Leavers and the provision of engagement projects..

- There have been 12 work experience placements provided to Care Leavers by ESCC since September 2014. This includes 1 FT internship for one of our undergraduates. There is a service level agreement and additional funding available for the Youth Employability Service (YES) to ensure that there are 2 identified YES Advisors who work with Year 11 and the Care Leavers team. Care Leavers are now part of ESCC Employability Strategy. An accredited course for independent living skills has been commissioned. A VS Case Worker has been appointed to work alongside the Care Leavers team to provide and commission engagement and enrichment projects for young people and help focus work on improving educational and training outcomes.

3. Virtual School priorities for the school year 16/17

3.1 To develop a Key Stage(KS) 4 intervention programme in partnership with other teams to support those young people who though successful in KS1 – KS3, for one reason or another, disengage and therefore underachieve at KS4.

3.2 To increase our capacity to provide additional educational psychology hours.

3.3 To work with the Assessment and Planning team in ISEND to develop a new Personal Education Plan (PEP) that will be compatible with school based plans.

3.4 To be clear about how we measure the progress that a child is making including progress from Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of KS1

3.5 To take into account Progress 8 measures of successful outcomes at the end of KS4

3.6 To build on existing good practice of joint planning between social worker, young person and Designated Teacher.

3.7 To develop extra-curricular programmes with partner organisations (and develop the concept of partner organisations) with an emphasis on identifying and supporting gifted and talented young people.

3.8 To develop and embed “agile working” across the team to ensure that accommodation restrictions do not present obstacles to team working

4. Use of Pupil Premium (2015 – 2016)

4.1 The PP for LAC of £1900 per child, is managed by the Virtual Headteacher and is used to support the education of LAC. In the financial year 2015 – 2016 the total fund was £859,464. The PP for formerly LAC (also £1900 per child) is paid directly to the schools that they attend. The PP for LAC in early years settings is £400 a year and is managed by the VS.

4.2 Requests for funding from PP, and the evaluation of the impact the additional resources have on learning, is identified through the PEP. Although in order to be responsive, requests can be made to the VS at any time by Designated Teachers, Social Workers or VS Case Workers.

4.3 A VS PP panel meet once a month to consider all requests. The criteria for allocating funding are in two parts. The first is that the additional resource will support the young person’s learning and improve their educational outcomes; the second is that the funding would not normally be expected to come from any other funding stream (such as core VS budget, SEN funding, school base budget, fostering allowances etc.) The criteria are well known and the evidence for this is that almost all requests are met.

4.4 PP may also be used to support groups of children and young people by, for example, providing specialist training for staff, supporting school based inclusion projects or by increasing the capacity of other teams, including the VS itself, to provide support for LAC and formerly LAC.

Table 1 – Breakdown of Expenditure

Budget Heading	Allocated	% Budget	Examples of Types of Expenditure
Alternative Provision	£56,730	7%	Includes accessing courses through third party providers such as DV8, Challenger Troop, Act on It and costs associated with work experience and other off- site provision.
Assessment	£5,500	1%	Speech and Language Therapists, EP's
Books	£25,226	3%	All children in primary school and those children who opt in in secondary school receive termly parcels of books and educational resources that we commission from "Bags of Books" in Lewes.
ESBAS	£39,440	5%	Ensuring that every LAC has access to ESCC behaviour and attendance support when needed.
ESMS	£11,121	1%	Ensuring that every LAC has access to the ESCC Music Service.
Extending Remit	£92,891	11%	Additional staffing to extend the remit of the VS to support all those children and young people who were formerly LAC(adopted children, those on Special Guardianship Orders and Care Leavers in full time education)
Extra Curricular	£12,692	1%	Music lessons (other than those provided by ESMS) and support for Sport and Drama.
IT Equipment	£19,557	2%	Laptops, tablets and associated hardware and software including apps.
Resources	£8,658	1%	A range of items such as magnetic letters, calm boxes, phonic resources etc.
School Based Inclusion Projects	£45,432	5%	Where schools with large numbers of LAC have developed inclusion projects that will benefit LAC and other vulnerable learners and have requested part funding
Schools Visits	£6,639	1%	Usually a maximum of one third of the cost of a school visit is supported (the rest coming from the foster carer's allowance)
TA/INA Support	£56,744	7%	Funding for schools to increase Teaching Assistant provision to support individual pupils
Therapy and Support	£77,007	9%	Fegans, Counselling, Sand play and Thrive sessions
Training	£43,826	5%	Mainly Thrive training. 18 schools have received support to enable a member of staff to become Thrive trained
Maintaining School Places	£205,835	24%	The cost of transporting children who have had to move home either because they have just come into care or where there has been a change of placement.
Tuition	£152,166	18%	The provision of 1:1 tuition in a range of subjects but predominantly English and Maths

Table 2 - Categories of Recipients

LAC	£737,493	86%
Care Leavers	£64,372	7%

Adopted	£8,187 ¹	1%
All Groups	£49,411	6%
Total	£859,464	

Table 3 – By Type of School

		No. of requests ²	No. of children
Nursery	£1,318	6	29
Primary	£222,578	557	166
Secondary	£202,833	452	155
Special	£53,212	112	63
Projects ³	£357,903	40	328
College	£10,965	35	82
University	£10,655	4	24
Total	£859,464	847	

5. Educational Outcomes (end of school year 2015)

5.1 For the last six years LAC in East Sussex have performed well at school when compared to LAC in other local authority areas. Since 2014 the proportion of local LAC with SEN has been greater than the proportion nationally with SEN and this has had an impact on reported comparative outcomes, particularly at KS4. Across all key stages in 2014/15 East Sussex LAC generally outperformed the national outcomes when broken down by SEN groups (those without SEN, those with SEN support and those with Statements of SEN or with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

5.2 The good educational outcomes for ESCC LAC are achieved as a result of a number of factors: a high proportion of “attachment friendly” schools, the collaborative relationship between social care and educational services, targeted and imaginative use of PP together with a strong sense of corporate parenting responsibilities.

5.3 In KS1 there were 13 children who had been in continuous care for the 12 months ending on 31st March 2015 who undertook KS assessments at the end of Year 2 last summer. 9 children have SEN (69% of the cohort). All the children attend East Sussex schools.

1 Pupil Premium for Adopted Children is paid directly to Schools. This sum relates to funding that has come from the LAC Pupil Premium .

2 The number of requests refers to the number of separate requests for funding in the year.

3 Projects includes all uses of Pupil Premium that benefit a number of different children for example school based projects, staff development and building additional capacity.

KS1

All Pupils	LAC (East Sussex)	All (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	ALL (England)
% achieving	L2+			
Reading	69%	91%	71%	90%
Writing	54%	88%	63%	88%
Maths	69%	94%	73%	93%

L2+ Reading	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	ALL (England)
NO SEN	4/4 100%	96%	NA	96%
Statement or EHC Plan	1/4 25%	24%	NA	27%
SEN without Statements	4/5 80%	47%	NA	60%

L2+ Writing	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	ALL (England)
NO SEN	4/4 100%	94%	NA	95%
Statement or EHC Plan	0/4 0%	19%	NA	21%
SEN without Statements	3/5 60%	29%	NA	51%

L2+ Maths	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	ALL (England)
NO SEN	4/4 100%	98%	NA	89%
Statement or EHC Plan	1/4 25%	26%	NA	29%
SEN without Statements	4/5 80%	50%	NA	67%

5.4 Of the four children who failed to achieve level 2 in Reading and Maths, one was working towards national curriculum levels in all three subjects and three achieved level 1 in all three areas. Only one child achieved a level 2 in Reading and Maths but not in Writing. The four children who do not have SEN all achieved level 2s and in most cases achieved higher level 2s (2As and 2Bs). Two children (both with SEN) achieved a level 3, one in Reading and one in Maths.

5.5 In KS2 there were 30 children who had been in continuous care for the 12 months ending on 31st March 2015 who undertook KS assessments at the end of Year 6 last summer. 21 children have SEN (70% of the cohort) and 12 of these (30%) have Statements of SEN or EHCPs. This is higher than national proportions at KS2 where the percentages are 65% and 24% respectively. Of the 30 children, 24 are educated in maintained schools or academies within East Sussex and 6 are educated outside of East Sussex. In total 5 (17%) are educated in special schools.

L4+ Reading	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)
NO SEN	9/9 100%	95%	94%	95%
Statement or EHC Plan	4/12 33.3%	39%	33%	30%
SEN without Statements	8/9 88.9%	72%	70%	69%
L4+ Writing	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)
NO SEN	9/9 100%	96%	92%	95%
Statement or EHC Plan	3/12 25%	26%	20%	21%
SEN without Statements	8/9 88.9%	65%	54%	57%
Level 4+ Maths	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)
NO SEN	9/9 100%	94%	89%	94%
Statement or EHC Plan	3/12 25%	28%	26%	26%
SEN without Statements	8/9 89%	64%	61%	64%

KS2							
All Pupils	LAC (East Sussex)		All (East Sussex)		LAC (England)		ALL (England)
% achieving	L4+	EP	L4+	EP	L4+	EP	L4+
Reading	72%	82%	90%	91%	71%	82%	89%
Writing	71%	79%	89%	96%	61%	84%	87%
Maths	69%	80%	86%	89%	64%	77%	87%
By SEN group							
Expected Progress Reading	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)			
NO SEN	9/9 100%	n/a	95%	94%			
ALL SEN	14/19 74%	n/a	73%	78%			
Statement or EHC Plan	5/10 50%	n/a	53%	49%			
SEN without Statements	9/9 100%	n/a	85%	83%			
Expected Progress Writing	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)			
NO SEN	9/9 100%	n/a	96%	97%			
ALL SEN	14/20 70%	n/a	76%	81%			
Statement or EHC Plan	5/11 45%	n/a	54%	53%			
SEN without Statements	9/9 100%	n/a	88%	86%			
Expected Progress Maths	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)			
NO SEN	9/9 100%	n/a	92%	93%			
ALL SEN	15/21 71%	n/a	68%	74%			
Statement or EHC Plan	6/12 50%	n/a	49%	47%			
SEN without Statements	9/9 100%	n/a	80%	79%			

Whole cohort of 30 - progress cohorts less than this as some data not counted

5.6 With the exception of progress in Writing, ESCC's LAC outperformed national cohorts in all measures despite having a higher than average number of children with SEN. All nine children (100%) without SEN achieved at least a level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths, this compares to just 82% of LAC without SEN across the country as a whole. 43% of our children with SEN achieved level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to just 33% LAC nationally and 39% of non LAC. In terms of the progress children made all SEN groups outperformed national LAC outcomes in Mathematics and other than those with Statements of SEN or EHCPs, they also outperformed national LAC outcomes in Reading and Writing.

5.7 In KS4 there were 45 children who had been in continuous care for the 12 months ending on 31st March 2015 who finished Year 11 last summer. 40 children have SEN (89% of the cohort) and 26 of these (58%) have Statements of SEN or EHCPs. This is higher than national figures in England generally at KS 4 where the percentages are 55% and 23% respectively. Educationally, this is our most challenging cohort by far. Of the 45 children 33 are educated in East Sussex maintained schools or academies and 12 are educated outside of East Sussex (6 of these in special schools) In total 15 (33%) are educated in special schools.

(RAG applies to comparison with national LAC outcomes)

All Pupils	LAC (East Sussex)		All (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	England all 2015
% achieving	Cohort	%		%	%
5+ A*-C Including En and Ma	45	8.9%	56.3%	13.8%	57.3%
Expected Progress English	35	31.4%	72.5%	34.5%	71.3%
Expected Progress Maths	36	30.6%	68.8%	26.3%	67.0%
By SEN group					
5+ A*-C inc EN and MA	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)	
NO SEN	0/5 0%	64%	31.70%	64.20%	
ALL SEN	4/40 10%	14.80%	8.20%	19.10%	
Statement or EHC Plan	2/26 8%	9.90%	2.80%	8.80%	
SEN without Statements	2/14 14%	16.70%	12.50%	22.10%	
Expected Progress English	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)	
NO SEN	2/4 50%	n/a	54.80%	75.30%	
ALL SEN	10/31 32%	n/a	30.80%	46.50%	
Statement or EHC Plan	4/19 21%	n/a	17.70%	29.30%	
SEN without Statements	6/12 50%	n/a	41.80%	51.50%	
Expected Progress Maths	LAC (East Sussex)	ALL (East Sussex)	LAC (England)	Non LAC (England)	
NO SEN	2/4 50%	n/a	48.50%	72.50%	
ALL SEN	7/32 22%	n/a	21.60%	36%	
Statement or EHC Plan	2/19 11%	n/a	11.70%	21.40%	
SEN without Statements	5/13 38%	n/a	29.80%	40.20%	
whole cohort of 45 - progress cohorts are less than this as some data not counted.					

5.8 Given the exceptional nature of this cohort these outcomes should be considered as a positive achievement given the proportionally high level of SEN. If indeed the data is analysed against SEN groups and comparisons are made with LAC and non LAC children the picture looks very different. The only group to underachieve were the group of 5 children who did not have identified SEN. Had two of these children gained a grade C rather than a grade D at GCSE English or Maths then East Sussex would have outperformed national outcomes within every group identified above.

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Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	14 October 2016
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

RECOMMENDATION:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the report.

1. Background

1.1 The most recent LAC statistics are attached as Appendix 1. As ever this is a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore masks considerable activity throughout the months. Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

2. Supporting information

2.1 At the end of September 2016, there were 7 more children overall bringing ESCC to a total of 555 LAC. A total of 398 children were in foster care with 71 of those children in agency placements, a decrease of 2 over the quarter. 20 children were placed for adoption. 5 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters.

2.3 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 43, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

2.4 16 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, an increase 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.

2.5 At the end of the quarter 21 children were placed in agency residential placements, an increase of 1 placement.

2.6 During the quarter, at various times a total of 6 East Sussex children were secured via a welfare route, four in the context of risk of CSE, one in the context of chaotic and dangerous substance misuse and the final child due to extremely challenging behaviour in response to trauma within her birth family. 3 had to be placed externally to East Sussex for some of the time because of either the mix of young people at Lansdowne or because of a lack of available space at Lansdowne. At the end of the quarter we still have 3 young people secured with one placed in the West Country.

2.7 At the end of the period there were no young people from ESCC in criminal secure placements.

2.8 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children has increased by 5. ESCC has accepted responsibility for 6 young people via the dispersal scheme but one young person went missing almost immediately following placement and before an age assessment could be completed. ESCC has also assumed responsibility for 4 young people placed by Kent within the East Sussex borders.

2.9 There are now 321 children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders a rise of 3 and 387 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 7.

2.10 During the quarter 8 complaints from Looked After Children were received by the Customer Relations and Complaints team. Of these;

2 were complaints related to Lansdowne:

- one related to alleged aggressive staff behaviour which turned out to have no basis after full investigation and review of CCTV footage
- the other was about choice of supertime snacks. This was resolved by offering a different choice and encouraging the young person to meet with the cook on a regular basis.

2 were complaints related to Brodrick Road:

- one was easily resolved with an explanation and an apology for any upset (related to the way the LAC was spoken to and staff omitting to send a form into school)
- the other was from a LAC who didn't like her social worker and didn't believe decisions were being made in her best interests. She was also unhappy at Brodrick. A meeting with the manager allowed the child to discuss all the concerns and how they could be addressed.

2 were complaints about Homefield Cottage:

- one from a young person who claimed she was not being kept safe by the staff. This was fully investigated and her claims turned out to be unfounded.
- the other was from a young person wanting a mobile phone. The manager fully explained the reasons for not allowing her to keep her phone and our duty to keep her safe. The young person did not accept this and said she will continue to complain.

The remaining 2 complaints were firstly from a child who was unhappy about the delay in confirming her new placement. She was placed in a Children's Home in Haverfordwest before the complaint was responded to. The other was a complaint about the care provided by one of our foster carers, which is currently under investigation.

3. Conclusion

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

3.2 A relatively small number of complaints have been received. All have been or are being investigated fully.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

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

Appendix 1

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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
Total	538	548	555

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