



## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

FRIDAY, 21 JANUARY 2022

10.00 AM COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

MEMBERSHIP - Councillors Sam Adeniji, Bob Bowdler, Johnny Denis, Kathryn Field (Chair), Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood, Matthew Milligan and Colin Swansborough

### A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2021 (*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 report for Lansdowne Secure Children's Home (*Pages 7 - 18*)

7. Children's Home Regulations 2015, Regulation 44: Inspection reports

7.1 Acorns at Dorset Road (*Pages 19 - 64*)

7.2 Brodrick House (*Pages 65 - 178*)

7.3 Hazel Lodge (*Pages 179 - 258*)

7.4 Homefield Cottage (*Pages 259 - 340*)

7.5 Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 341 - 410*)

7.6 The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 411 - 492*)

8. Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

9. Annual report of the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) 2020-21 (*Pages 493 - 528*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
10. Strengthening the Local Offer for care leavers in East Sussex (*Pages 529 - 550*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services
11. Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics (*Pages 551 - 554*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services.
12. Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

PHILIP BAKER  
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13 January 2022

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## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 29 October 2021.

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### PRESENT

Councillors Bob Bowdler, Kathryn Field (Chair),  
Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood, Matthew Milligan,  
Colin Swansborough and Sam Adeniji

### ALSO PRESENT

Alison Jeffery – Director of Children’s Services

Teresa Lavelle-Hill – Head of LAC Services

Beverley Moores – Strategic Lead, Children’s Disability Care  
ISEND

Nicola Scott – Operations Manager, Residential LAC Services

Mandy Lewis – Head of Virtual School

Ian Williams – Registered Homes Manager, Lansdowne  
Secure Unit

Sally Williams – Operations Manager

Janet Fairless – Registered Homes Manager, Homefield  
Cottage

Shirin White – Registered Homes Manager, Acorns

Karen Carty – Assistant Manager, Lansdowne Secure Unit

Steven Crowe – Registered Homes Manager, Brodrick House

Aaron Sams – Democratic Services Officer

### 13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2021

13.1 RESOLVED to agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2021.

### 14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

14.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Johnny Denis.

### 15. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

15.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

16. URGENT ITEMS

16.1 There were no urgent items.

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

17.1 RESOLVED - to exclude the public and press from the meeting for items 9 and 10 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.

18. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS

18.1 The Panel considered Ofsted Inspection reports for the following Children's Homes:

- Acorns
- Brodrick House
- Homefield Cottage
- Lansdowne

18.2 The Panel welcomed the reports and received a verbal update from the Registered Homes' Managers (RHM) regarding their Ofsted report.

18.3 RESOLVED – to note the reports.

19. CHILDREN'S HOME REGULATIONS 2015, REGULATION 44: INSPECTION REPORTS

19.1 The Panel considered Regulation 44 Reports for the following Children's Homes:

- Acorns
- Brodrick House
- Hazel Lodge
- Homefield Cottage
- Lansdowne Secure Unit
- The Bungalow

19.2 The Panel received a verbal update from each of the Registered Homes' Managers (RHMs).

19.3 The Panel discussed a wide range of issues, including; the impact of Covid-19 on the Children's Homes', behaviour control techniques within the homes', recruitment, retention and staff changes and building improvements within the homes

20. ANY OTHER EXEMPT ITEMS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIR.

20.1 There were none.

21. VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT - 1 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 31 AUGUST 2021

21.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which highlighted the work of the Virtual School for the period 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.

21.2 Mandy Lewis, Head of the Virtual School, introduced the report and provided the Panel with a detailed overview on the work of the Virtual School, including: supporting 419 children who were looked after (LAC), and a total of 732 children and young people including Care Leavers (CL), a focus on educational support with literacy and numeracy, continued partnership working between the Virtual School and local providers, including Eggtooth and the Education Futures Trust and funding of a 10 week training programme for foster carers, amongst other work.

21.3 The Panel sought assurance that Looked After Children (LAC) were not being excluded or suspended from school disproportionately compared to the general school population. Mandy Lewis confirmed to the Panel that exclusion of LAC is a significant national issue, but that in the previous year locally there were no permanent exclusions of LAC. The Panel further heard however, that a slightly higher proportion of LAC were suspended from school but that this may be a reflection of the fact that the majority of LAC were in school full time during Covid-19 restrictions while the majority of the general school population were at home. The Panel were assured that the Virtual School works with all schools to support children that were in crisis to avoid exclusions, this includes working with the Education Support Behaviour and Attendance Service (ESBAS) and educational psychologists.

21.4 RESOLVED - to note the report.

22. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020-21

22.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the annual performance of the Looked After Children (LAC) Service for 2020-21.

22.3 The update provided detail about the achievements of the LAC service and the ongoing challenges it faces. This update included:

- **Increase in Looked After Children (LAC):** There was an increase of children in care compared to the previous year. The Panel heard that this was partly due to an increase of an additional 22 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) in the care of ESCC and also due to more children entering care than leaving care.
- **Adoption South East (ASE) Regional Adoption Agency:** East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Surrey and Brighton and Hove launched ASE on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and meets weekly to consider all children and available adopters in order to identify potential links.
- **Fostering Recruitment and Retention:** There were 20 fostering households approved during 2020/21 offering 30 placements and 277 initial fostering enquiries. 2 fostering households transferred from agency foster carers to become East Sussex foster carers.

- **Education of LAC:** School attendance remained high for LAC during the Covid-19 lockdowns. There were no permanent exclusions of LAC in 2020/21. Educational assessments and regulated tests were determined by teaching staff, this data will not be published but will be used to identify patterns and trends.

22.4 The Panel discussed the development of the corporate grandparenting role and sought more information on this project. Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of Looked After Children's Services, informed the Panel that many of the care leavers become parents themselves and that the corporate grandparenting project is the Department's way of ensuring that these young people have the support and guidance in a similar way to that a grandparent would provide.

22.5 RESOLVED – to note the report.

### 23. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

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

23.2 Teresa Lavelle-Hill, Head of LAC Services updated the Panel on the latest data regarding LAC in East Sussex. Members heard that in the last quarter there has been a slight decrease in the numbers of children from 625 in June to 622 on the last day of September. A total of 343 children were in foster care at the end of September, with 269 of these children living with East Sussex County Council carers and 74 children living with agency carers. There has been an increase of 6 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the quarter bringing the total to 59 at the end of September.

23.3 RESOLVED - to note the report.

### 24. ANY OTHER NON-EXEMPT ITEMS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIR.

24.1 There were none.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **21 January 2022**

Title of Report: **Annual report of the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) 2020-21**

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

Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on the activity and achievements of ESFCA during 2020-21**

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**Recommendations:** **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on and note the annual report.**

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

1.1 East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) is a registered charity and much of their activity is funded by grants or by fundraising activity. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) provides an annual grant of £20k plus office space for the association in St Mark's House in Eastbourne.

1.2 The Annual Report for 2020-21 is attached as Appendix 1.

## **2. Conclusion**

2.1 Despite the pressure of the Covid pandemic, the activity, and achievements of ESFCA have been maintained. The association contributes significantly to the welfare of the children in the care of ESCC and the partnership between ESFCA and ESCC remains strong.

## **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on and note the annual report.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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2020-2021





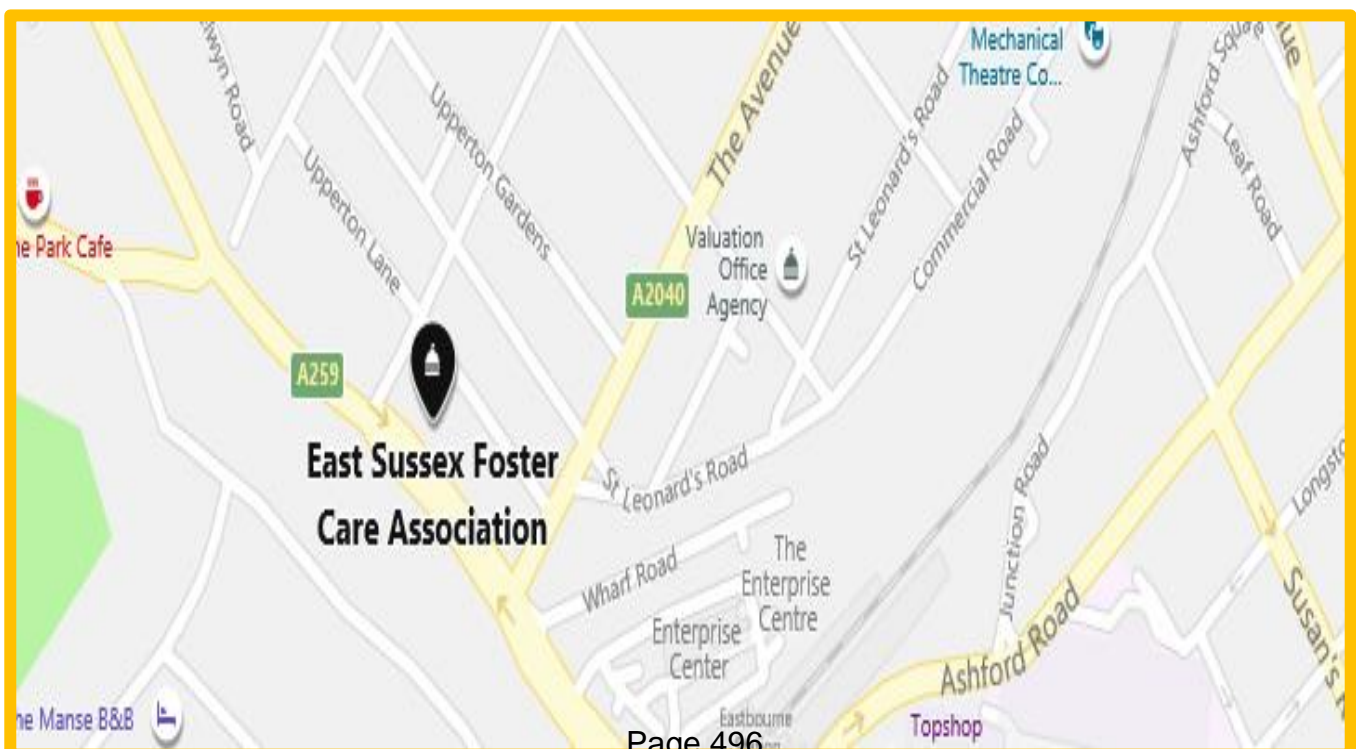
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# WELCOME TO THE ESFCA

In March 1993 a small group of foster carers in the Uckfield area started to meet regularly in a back room of a retirement home in Hailsham. It was created in response to the needs of the children and young people in the care of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and the demands this placed on foster families.

East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) aim has always been to “build brighter futures” for children in care and to support foster families in their role, including recognising the contribution our own children make. This continues to be done through fundraising so that we can deliver a large range of activities and services.

Over the last 27 years ESFCA has grown from the Uckfield support group to the association we are today, covering the whole of East Sussex and over 240 foster families.

ESFCA has always remained proudly independent of the ESCC, but we are also very proud of the very special relationship it has created with the fostering service and social workers.

The association arranges surgeries monthly for foster carers to attend and is often asked to provide feedback on policies and practices. Social workers take part and join the children on PGL residential trips and volunteer to help on some of the activities the association run throughout the year.

The association feels strongly about training and education for the members and regularly provides training seminars and conferences for the carers, social workers, and the various child services across East Sussex.

ESFCA has a goal that grabs the imagination of all foster carers and volunteers, and that is to allow the children to create their own happy memories by having fun and taking on activities by bringing them out of their comfort zone.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 ESFCA was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

This award recognises the exceptional work achieved by ESFCA in their community which incorporates the whole of East Sussex. This is a prestigious award, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and equivalent to an MBE.



**“Facilitating life changing experiences for fostered children to enable brighter futures for the whole fostering family”**

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The objectives of East Sussex Foster Care Association as set out in the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association are, to promote all or any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community mainly but not exclusively within the County of East Sussex and in particular the advancement of the education of the public in matters relating to substitute care. The education, training and support of foster carers and their families, the relief of Looked After Children, their Carers, and their Carers' families by providing facilities and services in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving their conditions of life.

The Associations aim is to support East Sussex Foster Carers and their families in their efforts to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children in their care by working in partnership with all appropriate statutory and voluntary agencies. It undertakes this task by offering a range of events, advocacy, training, and support for the both the families and the children they care for. Its membership comprises of East Sussex Local Authority registered Foster Carers. The management group is formed from elected Trustees/Directors', largely from within that membership but not exclusively as the board benefits from the ongoing support of others with backgrounds in children's services.



# TRUSTEES

## **Chairperson- Susanne Beesley**

My family and I have been fostering 30 years, our second son was only a few months old when we began, and our third son was born some years into our fostering journey.

Our family grew through the adoption of our 2 daughters and long-term fostering. Our goal has always been to provide longer term stability to the children we have fostered, and we are always delighted to be able to keep in touch with these young people and see them as extended members of our family today.



## **Vice Chairman- Mark Thornborough**

Mark and his wife Andrea have been fostering for many years, Mark is very active in ESFCA as he runs the very successful PGL trips with Tina and the team of dedicated volunteers. Mark also takes an active part in the administration of ESFCA and manages the staff and office to ensure things run smoothly.



## **Treasurer- Lysette Grosvenor**

Myself and my husband Gary have been Foster Carers since 2015. We have looked after over 30 children. We do this full time together. We have done short term care, respite cover, emergency placements and more recently long-term fostering.

Every child is different, and it is so rewarding when they learn and develop new skills and accomplishments like reading, swimming, and riding a bike. I also enjoy helping them become independent with skills like shopping, saving money and cooking.



## **Founder Trustee- Tina Henderson**

Hi, my name is Tina Henderson and my family, and I have been fostering for 30 years. We are also adoptive parents to our wonderful son.

My start in life was not the best and I use this experience to try and help other children. We can offer long- and short-term home for children and enjoy doing assessment placements and respite.



## **Founder Trustee- Ann Holder MBE**

My family and I have been fostering since 1975 (with a short break when my daughter was born) and we also became adoptive parents. We mainly care for babies which I really enjoy.

I also actively get involved with pre-adoptive work and working with families. I received the MBE for services to fostering in 2007





# TRUSTEES



## **Trustee- Ru Petraitis-Williams**

Ok, my name is Ru, my husband Kevin and our daughter Blue have been fostering for almost 14 years. Our life has become so very fulfilled and it's a fantastic journey in so many levels.

We have the privilege to have children coming into our home and share the challenges we face and achievements we conquer. The children who come into care are so resilient teaching us so much in how we can appreciate life in general. We foster children between the ages of 5 to 15 years old and being foster carers is the most rewarding thing we do.

## **Trustee- Anja Leeves**

Anja & Nick (Anja's husband) have been offering foster families respite for over 7 years and Anja has also been an active participant in ESFCA. The Baby & toddler meet ups are arranged between Anja & Ann and Anja also leads the way in foster carer wellbeing by running the Relax, Recharge and Reflect.



## **Trustee- Sandra Maylam**

Sandra has been instrumental in offering all-round support and is an asset our team. Sandra takes an active role on the Inspire Project and when she isn't with us, she is enjoying a well-deserved break living the dream along the canals in her narrowboat.

## **Anne Buchan**

I was a long serving Social Worker in the fostering service and I was always an avid supporter of the ESFCA. My passion has always been to recognise the important part foster families own children play in the fostering role.



## **Christine Phillips**

During my career as a SEN personal advisor, I became acutely aware of the difficulties faced by looked after children. I was in awe of the foster families love and commitment to these children, many of whom could present significant challenges.

## **Ruma Smith**

My parents have been fostering for 9 years. I love having a busy house and have been involved in supporting the children they have looked after. It has been amazing to see lots of children reach milestones they may not have reached otherwise.



# PATRONS

## Jayne Torvill OBE

Once again, we would like to thank Jayne Torvill OBE for her continued support and Patronage. Jayne has been a Patron for ESFCA since 2012 and has taken part in many events and fundraising activities. Jayne is a strong advocate of ESFCA and feels passionate about making a difference in young people's lives.

*"I feel passionate about making a positive difference to the lives of children. The opportunity to work with a local charity that offers opportunities to move children forward in their lives is incredibly important. I am looking forward to contributing to their experiences and helping to create special memories".*

Jayne Torvill

## Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, FRSL

We also thank Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, FRSL (Fellowship of the Royal Society of Literature) for her continued support. Jacqueline became a patron in 2018 after meeting the trustees at our annual Bluebell Walk event and has continued to support the association at many events including our Christmas message sent to the foster families on **Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020** and launching our book club in January 2021.

*"I've been involved with foster care associations ever since I wrote my book The Story of Tracy Beaker and I'm always impressed by the care and dedication of foster carers, but I think everyone at ESFCA are the absolute best. I love the sound of the residential breaks, the thoughtful provision of new luggage, the arts project, the library and the day trips."*

*"All power to ESFCA"*

Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, FRSL



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear all,

March 2020 to April 2021 can probably be described as a year like no other and yet despite the upheaval and restrictions of the pandemic, ESFCA has stayed true to its mission.

I pay tribute as always to the people who make this possible, all can take pride in what we have achieved this year, despite and even possibly because of Covid. This includes today's dedicated committee as well as previous trustees.

At the time of writing, we learned of the sad passing of our first Chair, Jona Eichner who was an inspirational foster carer with great insight into the many issues facing foster families. At our launch in 1993, Jona brought foster carers together to acknowledge some of the many difficulties we were facing, in the quest to be recognised and the cornerstone in the Looked After Child's life. Her wish was for carers to be respected as part of the skilled and proficient team around the child. She created an atmosphere to find solutions in a positive way and always led by example to bring all parties to the table to negotiate a brighter future for us all. She was larger than life and had a charismatic, friendly smile that drew everyone in.

We were also deeply sorry to hear about the passing of Fred Livings in December 20. Fred was the chair of ESFCA from 2010 to 2015. Fred stepped in at a time when nobody else was brave enough to take the lead and steer ESFCA forward. He brought many skills from the world of business and helped create a more professional appearance in our standing as a charity. We will always be grateful to Fred for his time and commitment to the role. ESFCA is indebted to both inspirational foster carers

During the pandemic, the number of children nationally needing foster care rose by 44%, while the number of people looking to become foster parents plummeted by nearly half compared to previous years. Collectively, alongside our dedicated trustees and supporters, we were still able to make a difference. As always, we are grateful to our local authority whom we regard as one of our greatest supporters, alongside so many other individuals and organisations all named individually later in this annual report.

During this year not only did East Sussex families continue to show commitment to the children in their care but in many cases, families took on new placements despite the obvious increased risk of covid-19 infection. Yet again the resilience of our dedicated fostering families and has been truly remarkable. During this time Government guidance deemed it necessary for social workers and other professionals involved in children's lives to take a step back and maintain their link with an online presence. While feeling the increased pressure of being forced into quarantine with children and young people suffering from little outlet for their emotions, families took on many new roles and responsibilities. Foster parents not only had to manage their usual roles but also became home educators, counsellors, mediators, receptionists to online meetings, contact supervisors' full-time cooks, medics performing frequent lateral flow tests and all this whilst learning the balance of safe care for all, in the covid crisis. All of this was achieved in many cases while working from home and trying to maintain and adapt new rituals and routines to achieve some level of normalcy in uncertain times. Anxiety levels rose and most families experienced a level of uncertainty for the future and limited contact with elderly relatives, extended family members, and friends. Importantly, it must be acknowledged that most of our families rode this storm without the face-to-face support of social workers, support services and other professionals usually involved.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As a charity we are so grateful to our community partners who found new and ingenious ways to provide funding, demonstrate kindness, congratulate achievement and lending practical help to support our mission.

Thanks to the hard work of the trustees and Lysettes prudent financial management in previous years, we entered the lockdown and the unprecedented crisis, with a healthy level of reserves. This allowed our pandemic response to move swiftly from being reactive to being proactive, focusing on the needs of the children and families. Therefore, we continued to provide an adapted but extensive list of support, advice, advocacy, activities, and training services, as well as carry out research for our fellow carers, families, and the children in foster care throughout East Sussex.

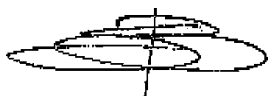
In difficult times reaching out to others has the power to unite and inspire us all and there is no doubt that new initiatives evolving from the frustrations and challenges faced by Covid restrictions, helped us to meet these unwelcome trials. It became impossible to roll out our beloved PGL (Children's residential Activity Camp) However, not wanting the children to miss out, a new exciting new relationship with Jamie's Farm Lewes was developed, who revised the way they usually work in line with the necessary restrictions and offered the most amazing therapeutic opportunities for young people to experience farm life, including hands-on activities with the animals.

We are so grateful to our dear friends the Lady Soroptimists who came to us knowing there would be new challenges and asked a specific question about how they could help. Thereafter, in partnership with Focus Games, a generous donation of therapeutic games was provided to enable a fun but powerful connection between carers and children.

In this report, you will read about the many initiatives this financial year brought with it, but another example of our capacity to adapt to circumstances ensure our children and families didn't miss out was the covid friendly 'Meet Santa' event. The event was pulled together at short notice and at low cost to us, thanks to the generosity of our community partners after the cancellation of our Christmas party.

I wish to thank both our patrons Jayne Torvill and Jacqueline Wilson for their ongoing commitment to ESFCA. One individual who really deserves to be recognised for his outstanding efforts is Nigel Berry, ESFCA's member of staff. Since he joined us in 2018 Nigel has shown immense professionalism and total dedication to his role, nothing is ever too much for him. During the lockdown, Nigel continued in his role unphased, and has been instrumental in supporting the trustees to embrace digital technology, facilitating online meetings, and enabling us all to continue to meet, even if it wasn't quite as we would have liked. It is precisely because of the trustee's dedication and passion alongside Nigel's actions and tireless dedication to ensuring every project is a great success, that that we can feel proud of all that has been achieved and all that is to come, under the banner of East Sussex Foster Care Association.

With Kind Regards,



Susanne Beesley  
Chair ESFCA

If you would like to contact Susanne  
Beesley regarding ESFCA please email;

[Susanne.beesley@esfca.co.uk](mailto:Susanne.beesley@esfca.co.uk)



# LOBBYING

ESFCA continues to lobby on behalf of foster families to ensure their needs are heard and met. We have regular contact with the County Councillors, and we report to 'the Corporate Parenting Committee' for ESCC

The meeting was particularly focussed on the East Sussex area, with the three representatives of ESFCA providing insights gleaned from their decades of fostering experience.

# ADVOCACY

ESFCA receives funds from East Sussex County Council as an annual grant which is held in a restricted fund (Advocacy Fund). This fund is used to provide independent support as required to assist any of our member foster carers who may be subject to an allegation or concerns around standards of care. These investigations can be complex and lengthy and can feel very isolating to a foster family as they are unable to discuss many of the issues with others due to confidentiality.

ESFCA are aware that if a serious allegation is made against a foster family member, then Supervising Social Workers are unable to support them whilst an investigation is ongoing. ESFCA has worked jointly with the fostering services to provide an extensive Allegation support pack and all foster carers in East Sussex are automatically signed up to Foster Talk who provides **free independent legal advice**.

# SURGERIES

ESFCA holds monthly surgeries on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month whereby foster carers can bring to the table often complex and difficult issues that needs a fast-track resolution from senior managers in Children's and Fostering Services. A trustee will attend the meeting to offer support to the foster carer in presenting their problem. This can really help all parties to find a way forward or air complaints in a face to face and professional manner.

Foster carers are encouraged to come and talk through any difficulties in the hope of finding a way of resolving the difficulties quickly and efficiently. If the issue is around Adoption or Education, then ESFCA would seek to bring the relevant manager to the same meeting. For further information please contact.

[advice@esfca.co.uk](mailto:advice@esfca.co.uk)

# COVID LOCKDOWN SURVEY

The outbreak of Covid-19 brought challenges to everyone as well as everyday life. These challenges were magnified for foster families as raising a looked after child brings its own unique set of tests.

Social distancing meant a rise in the use of technology, home schooling and working from home which created a need for a new set of skills. ESFCA worked with the fostering service to create, distribute, and report on key areas of concern during the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown.

ESFCA sent every member a questionnaire to gather information on their experience during the initial 2020 Covid lockdown. The survey referenced three key areas.

- Continuance of contact and placement support for looked after children and foster families.
- The support and continuance of education (home schooling) from the Local Authority and Virtual school.
- The financial, welfare & wellbeing support during lockdown (and beyond) from the Local Authority for foster families and looked after children.

This information was collated, and a report was given to the Fostering and Children's services operations managers.

# ALLEGATION SUPPORT

With the cancellation of so many activities, ESFCA trustees looked to the concerns regarding the pressures surrounding our foster families and the increased risk of allegations due to the stressful home environment and the added pressure of home schooling.

ESFCA and ESCC Fostering Services put together a joint working party to review, assess and improve the allegation support package available to the foster families. This process took over two months and resulted a definitive allegation document pack given to every foster family to ensure they have appropriate knowledge, information, guidance, support and legal advice.

The allegation packs include:

- Introduction letter from ESFCA Chairperson Susanne Beesley
- Fostering Network guidebook to allegations and Legal Support
- Contact sheet including a dedicated email address to ESFCA support, 24/7 contact phone number and the contact number to free Legal support
- Booklet 1- Containing an easy-to-use guide to the allegation process
- Booklet 2- Containing a more in-depth guide to the allegation process
- Wallet Card with the contact phone numbers and email address
- Fridge magnet with the contact email address.

These packs were sent to every foster family under ESCC Fostering Service and automatically sent out to every newly approved foster family.

# YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FOSTER



This is a group that represents the birth, adopted and special guardianship children of foster families, these children share their parents and their childhood with the children who are fostered within their families. These incredible children help

LAC coming into their home adjust to their new environment. The YPWF allow these children to have a voice and a place to share their experiences, they also organise events (Halloween discos) and day trips out and regular meetups. ESFCA are again able to help finance some of these projects and help when asked.

Prior to the Covid lockdown ESFCA had sponsored a YPWF trip to Chessington Zoo (now on hold).

# CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL



The Children in Care Council (CiCC) is a group of looked after children which represents LAC across East Sussex and allows them to have a voice across the county. They represent LAC at events such as the Children and Young People's Trust conference. The CYPT conference

is where they meet other organisations that help and support young people in East Sussex.

CiCC also looks for ways to help in the future, prior to 2020 they have attended first aid and food hygiene courses which will help the children when they are looking for their first job (part/ full time).

These amazing children also provide backpacks which are gender and age appropriate, each backpack contains a toothbrush, socks, soft toy, hairbrush, pen, notepad and a newsletter explaining who they are.

ESFCA is extremely proud of these children and supports them by providing the financial support to run some of the projects above.

# THROUGH CARE TEAM

The through care team support young people and adults who are leaving the care system and support them to adjust and learn to be independent. Young adults aged 16-25 with varying different needs are supported by key workers to adjust to the big changes' adulthood brings and ESFCA is there to help on projects so they can continue to develop self-esteem and create positive memories.

ESFCA had sponsored a camping trip for a group of young adults (this has now been put on hold until 2022 due to Covid restrictions).

# SUITCASE INITIATIVE



Dignity and self-worth are key in the way a looked after child views and values themselves. This can be torn away from a child when they must leave their home with nothing but a rubbish/bin bag carrying the few possessions and clothes they have.

No child (especially foster children) should have to face the distressing sight of having their belongings packed into black plastic bags, when being moved either from birth family or to new foster placements. Black plastic bags are designed for rubbish and not for children's personal belongings.

ESFCA are proud to run an initiative that can help restore pride to the children entering the care system and have stock of luggage available to social workers and assessment teams and have already distributed over 200 suitcases to children that have had to be moved as an emergency or travelling to respite.

This initiative has also involved supporting the looked after children leaving the care system (16-25). The "Through Care Team", distribute luggage bags, hold-all's, and sports bags to help the leavers enter the community with dignity. Over 50 bags this year have been distributed to care leavers and in turn allowed them to maintain their dignity when moving to assisted lodgings or their own home.

This has been made possible by the amazing generosity from **Tripp Luggage** who has continued to support ESFCA over the last 7 years.

## SUPPORT

The association is only as strong as the support it receives, and we are privileged and humbled by the generosity of time and help it receives from its members, friends of ESFCA and community partners.

The activities and events can only take place thanks to members of the community stepping forward and volunteering. However, we are always looking for more help. If you would like to volunteer at one or more of our events then please contact the team at the office, where they can add you to our mailing list.

[Nigel.berry@esfca.co.uk](mailto:Nigel.berry@esfca.co.uk)

### Support East Sussex Foster Care Association

When you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk),  
Amazon Donates

Visit [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)



Follow us on  
Facebook



@ESFCAUK

# MAKE IT REEL PROJECT



Most families have Grandparents who spoil and make the children feel special by providing the little extras however looked after children often miss out on this influence. ESFCA recognise this and with a very generous donation from the **Reel Poster Company** (becoming the

fairy godparent) has stepped in to fill this role. ESFCA recognises that the East Sussex County Council has the responsibility to provide the needs of its LAC (looked after children) and the “Make it Reel Project” can only be accessed via a foster child’s social worker.

ESFCA would like to thank the Reel Poster Company for their support and below are some examples of how a small amount of money can make a real difference.

- Purchasing Weighted Blankets to aid with anxiety
- Spending money for a 14-year-old teenager who lives in a residential home, who went on her very first holiday with an old foster family she had remained in contact with.
- Football Coaching.
- A necklace for a 16-year-old who was attending her Prom.
- Attendance at a Science club for 10 weeks.
- Providing a birthday present for a teenager who had just been received into care and she had been abandoned by her birth family.

## CHILD OF SUSSEX

During 2019 ESFCA partnered with More Radio at their Child of Sussex awards and sponsored their “Make a Difference Awards”. These awards celebrate exceptional children have shown to be great achievers, shown great courage and resilience.

ESFCA was proud to partner with More Radio again in 2020 and celebrate the amazing resilience the children of Sussex have shown despite the restrictions (social distancing, home schooling, not being able to see their friends).

At the time of writing this the awards have been postponed due to Covid restrictions, please keep an eye on our website [www.esfca.co.uk](http://www.esfca.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook (Meta) for news on when the awards are back on.





# JAMIES FARM- LEWES



During 2020 ESFCA had to cancel or postpone nearly all our key events (due to Covid restrictions and lockdown) and unfortunately this meant cancelling our annual residential trips to PGL. However, this did not stop the trustees looking for alternatives and this led us to find Jamie's Farm.







Jamie's Farm is a residential experience with the aim of acting as a catalyst of change. Disadvantaged & vulnerable young people have the chance to combine therapy and farm life over a five-day period.

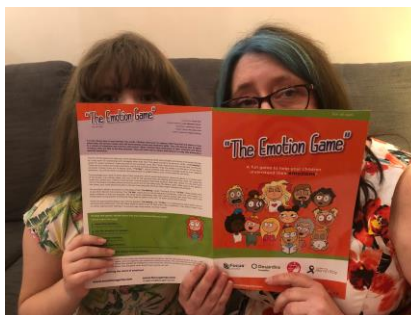
ESFCA sent 9 children and 8 adults on 5 consecutive days, camping on the penultimate night in the grounds of the farmhouse. Each child experienced working on the farm including feeding and cleaning the animals, tending the crops, walking the farm boundaries, and chopping wood. These tasks along with the fun and games allowed the highly qualified staff to engage with the children and help create a profile that could be given to the carer/ social worker to add on their development.

Each child received a video of their week along with a postcard and inspirational comment as a keep's sake.





# EMOTIONAL FOCUS



When our friends at the Lewes and Eastbourne Soroptimists contacted us with an offer to help, the trustees were overjoyed and jumped at the chance to help our members.

Over the last 7 years these amazing ladies have volunteered at our Christmas parties and have donated and helped the children wrap presents for their foster carers.

*The Lewes and Eastbourne Soroptimist's clubs are part of an international organisation that aims to help women and girls at a local and international level in many ways. It has been running for nearly 100 years and, as well as helping like-minded people meet, they raise funds locally and support causes as well as giving women more of a voice through the four seats at the UN allocated to the Soroptimist's International Organisation.*

The Soroptimists were incredibly generous and donated over 80 "Emotional focus" games designed to help children cope with their anxieties and fear. The games allow children to express their feelings and help build a dialogue between themselves and their care giver.





# HORSE RIDING



We were once again humbled by the generosity of our community partners when our friends at Horam Manor stables reached out to offer our members a chance to go horse riding.

We took the opportunity offered by Horam stables to blow off the cobwebs and take our looked after children horse riding (young people who foster were offered spaces towards the end of October.)

Over five weekends in October we took 36 children who enjoyed one to one session with the horses and trainers, learning about equine welfare as well as enjoying the experience of riding through the woods surrounding the stables.

The sessions were completed in a Covid safe environment and unfortunately had to be put on hold with the November lockdown.



# CARE PACKAGES

Everybody faced their own personal struggles through 2020 learning to live the 'New Normal' and the association became increasingly aware of the issues and concerns foster families faced on a day-to-day basis.

Trustees identified families that were facing unprecedented challenges and continued to remain in contact to offer support and to boost morale. They also arranged care packages for the families that were going above and beyond, these care packages took the form of flowers being delivered, sweet hampers and Just Eat vouchers (take-away food delivery.)

The Association also managed to arrange a couple of visits from Father Christmas to families that missed the meet Santa event due to Covid Isolation conditions.



# Beachy Head 10K



After so many cancellations and postponements during 2020 it was marvellous to find out that Eastbourne Borough Council were going to go ahead with the Beachy Marathon and 10k.

The Beachy Head 10k is a popular fixture on ESFCA's calendar, and we were overjoyed to be asked back for a third year to marshal the course and support the events team and runners.

The Beachy Head 10K has grown from its introduction in 2013 and is popular for its scenic course through the South Downs National Park countryside, covering a circular route starting from the same point as the Marathon. Heading along the South Downs to Belle Tout lighthouse before circling back along the stunning coastal route and ending at the start/finish line.

This year (2020) the weather was very wet and windy, however this did not dampen the spirits of our volunteers who continued to keep the runners safe and clapped and cheered as they made their way around the course.





# INTUITIVE HORSE



ESFCA fund sessions with Intuitive Horse for traumatised children offering a one-to-one session with specially trained horses that bond with the child and develop trust and emotional connections.

Intuitive Horse is Equine Assisted Personal Development through experiential learning which means working with horses to help gain insight into areas of life that we feel challenged in.

Q. What feelings have you experienced when you have been working with the horses? (put a circle around the ones you have felt) is there one feeling you have felt more of?

HAPPY SAD ANGRY FRUSTRATED WORRIED CALM

CONFIDENT GUILT JOY SHAME TRUST RELAXED EXCITED

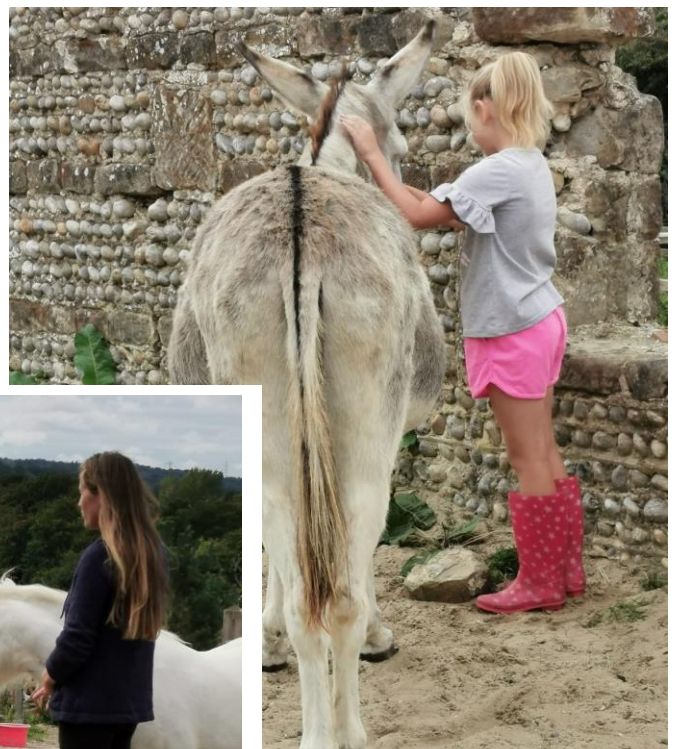
CONFUSED LOVE EMPATHY ANXIOUS

Q. How confident are you around horse  
0.....8

How confident were you around horse  
0.....5

Q. Would you recommend this experie  
Yes

Q. In one word how would you describ



## STABLE CONNECTIONS THROUGH INTUITIVE HORSE

### Feedback from the young person

Questions to be asked at the end of all the sessions for the young person to reflect on their experiences at Intuitive Horse.

Q What have you learnt from your sessions with the horses (horse skills and personal skills)?

I have learnt how to give space and use body language



# THROUGH CARE TEAM CHRISTMAS



The Through Care Team (TCT) support young adults leaving the care system aged 16-25. These young adults need support adjusting to life on their own and very rarely have family to help them adjust.

This year the TCT Christmas party was cancelled due to the Covid lockdown, however ESFCA supported the TCT by supplying gifts, gift bags, wrapping paper and cards.

Our friends at “Much Ado Books” also stepped up and supplied over 200 cookery books to add to the gift/care packages to help encourage healthy eating and cooking.

Over 150 young people received gifts bags and in addition 17 baby and toddlers of these young





# BACKPACK PROJECT



Since 2019 our friends at the Department of Works & Pensions (DWP) have created a Christmas event where they donate backpacks full of gifts for children coming into the care system.

The bags are donated not only from the staff of the DWP, but from their families and friends across the country. Bags have been donated from as far as Scotland down to South Wales

each containing toiletries, stationery, books, clothes, toys, and a soft cuddly toy.

We distribute the backpacks throughout the county ensuring they are available to all the family support teams have crates containing backpacks suitable for all age ranges and genders. ESFCA trustees across the county also hold small collections of backpacks to support emergency placements. The remaining backpacks are held at the office where they are distributed to social workers directly upon request.

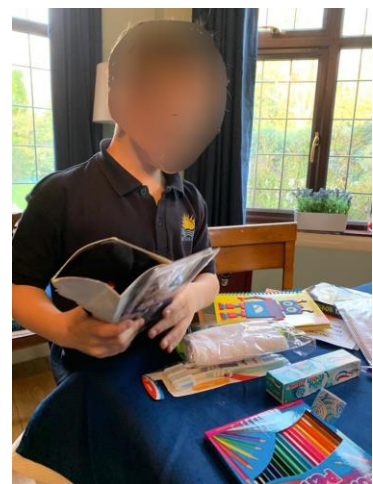
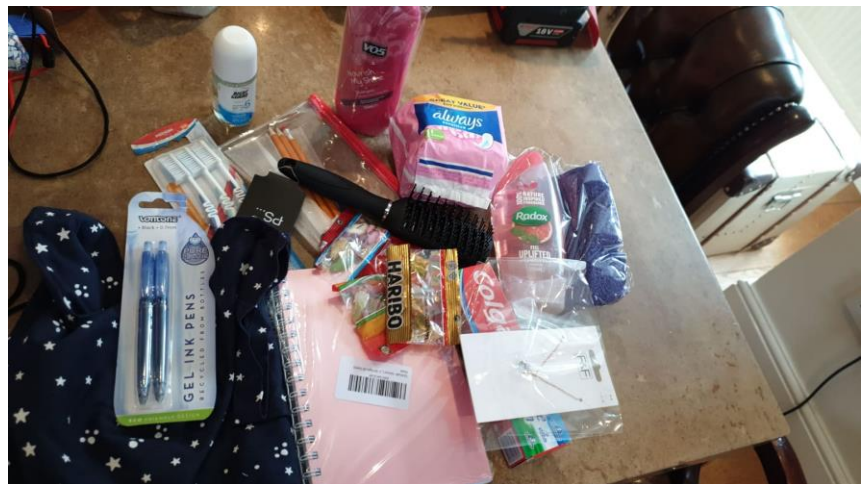
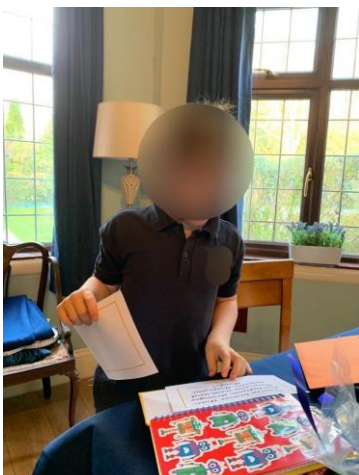
The Backpacks offer a fantastic opportunity for the children and carers to start their journey together on neutral ground. Exploring the bags together creates a useful diversion for a short time and the shared experience helps build their relationship. They also show the LAC that there are other adults thinking about them and sending a positive message so that they have some possessions of their own at this difficult time.



Picture taken in 2019



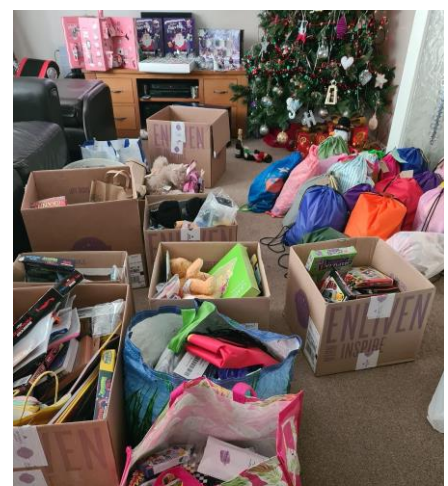




A special mention and thank you goes to Jo and her family who managed the event throughout the Covid lockdowns and social distancing rules.

They arranged for every donation to be delivered to their house whether directly from a donor or via the Amazon wish list set up for the activity. They then sorted the donations into suitable age and gender, packed the bags and boxed them ready for distribution.

Over 280 bags were donated along with a lot of time and humbling generosity.





# EASTBOURNE MOTORCYCLE RIDE OUT



For the third year running EBMR- a group of motorcycle enthusiasts from across the country, have partnered up with The Widows and Son Masonic Bikers Association to support local children across the county.

The group rode their motorcycles from Eastbourne seafront to Eastbourne District Hospital and then onto Hastings

Conquest Hospital (some dressed as Santa Claus and Elves) distributing toys for the children in hospital over the Christmas period.

Trustees and staff attended the ride out and received a generous donation from EBMR members and another donation from The Widows and Son Masonic Bikers Association,



## SAINSBURY'S

On Christmas Eve our friends at Sainsbury's (Eastbourne Beacon) kindly donated £100 (gift card) to the association to use for future projects.

This gesture was particularly special for the association as we were fully aware of the challenges the Sainsbury's team had faced, ensuring they stayed open during lockdown and facing the same fears and concerns as everyone whilst dealing with panic buying and social distancing. We were particularly touched that they thought of our foster families and made such a generous donation.



# MEET SANTA



After a year of cancelled events, and activities for looked after children across the county East Sussex Foster Care association were devastated to have to cancel the annual party for the foster families.

This is always one of the highlights for children of all ages as it closes with a very special visit from Father Christmas bringing a little present and a lot of Christmas spirit to the children and carers.

However local businesses Orbit Innovations, the Berwick Inn and More radio had other ideas. They could not offer a party, but Orbit Innovations who design and build outside pods for the hospitality trade and domestic use contacted the Berwick Inn (who currently have one of their pods) and between them offered a Covid safe environment for Santa to join the children and families in a social distanced meet.

More Radio stepped up and helped Santa by providing lots of toys and Sainsbury's (located in the beacon) provided plenty of mince pies so everybody could enjoy a touch of Christmas Spirit and a quick chat with Santa (who promised he would still be out on Christmas Eve working hard with his Elves and Reindeer for everyone).

ESFCA would like to extend its thanks and the thanks of all the foster families who attended the event to all the owners, staff and volunteers of the businesses that worked so hard and generously gave their time, resources that made this happen.







We would particularly like to thank the staff at the Berwick Inn for joining in with the fun.

They dressed up as Santa's helpers along with ESFCA chair meeting and greeting the families and ensuring they kept the Christmas spirit going.

They even filmed their own special birthday message for our Patron Jacqueline Wilson, singing happy birthday and wishing her special day.





# BOOK CLUB



On 24<sup>th</sup> December we posted a video onto our social media sites and sent a link to all our members. The video was of our patron Jacqueline sitting next to Sant Claus reading from “Hettie Feathers Christmas”.

At the end of the Christmas message, Jacqueline launched our book club and spoke about how we would meet virtually (via Zoom)

to read and talk about books together. The book club started at the end of January 2021 with another video from our patron launching the club and introducing the first book “**I Dare You- Tracy Beaker**”. Jacqueline then spoke about the character “Tracy Beaker” and the storyline we would all be following.

We decided to open the book club membership to all children, this would allow our looked after children and young people who foster to invite their friends (who are not in the care system or a carer) and enjoy the club together.

Once again, our friends at “Much Ado Books” stepped forward and donated a copy of the book to every member free of charge through their Prospero’s Project and once again we extend a massive thank you from the association and on behalf of the children from the club.

The book club currently takes place every two weeks on a Friday and every month we send out small gifts to the book club members (bags of popcorn, notebooks & pens).



# FINANCIAL REPORT

We continue to receive an annual grant of £20,000 from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) which enables us to employ staff to support the 11 Trustees in running the charity. We have also received an additional £6,000 to employ an apprentice to train in Business Administration which we are very much looking forward to helping a young person achieve in 21/22.

Furthermore, we continue to receive an annual top up of restricted funds from ESCC for the allegation fund held by ESFCA to support any foster carer facing an allegation. This fund provides independent support, at a most upsetting and worrying time, for all members of the family for as long as needed, which can in some cases involve a lengthy and complex investigation.

In this financial year our membership was 242 households residing in the county of East Sussex.

Our reserves remain constant and at the same level as last year at £40,000. These reserves are held to provide a safety net for the provision of regular annual events such as holidays, PGL weekends, the Christmas party and Pantomime, should we be unsuccessful in receiving donations or grants for these cherished activities to proceed. Should the Local Authority withdraw its annual grant, we hold reserves to meet our obligations such as paying staff and associated costs such as pension, NI and Tax, plus any outstanding creditors. In tandem, if the charity was wound up or placed into dormancy, we hold reserves to pay redundancy, accounting, audit and HMRC costs. The association can access our reserve fund immediately should the need arise.

Where donations are received and the donor has asked for the money to be utilised on a specific project request or a certain group of young people, we will honour that request and mark these funds restricted so they are only used for that purpose.

We continue to hold stock of new suitcases donated from Tripp luggage and other providers. These are available to specialist teams of Social Workers needing to move children in an emergency thus ensuring that their personal belongings are carefully packed and transported with the young person.

The ongoing Corona Virus pandemic continued to affect all aspects of our work, cancelling, and postponing many events including fundraising activities. There was a brief spell during the spring where we began to hold events but unfortunately a further lockdown brought challenges and the Trustees had to think hard as to how we could operate with Government restrictions in place.

One important aspect of our advocacy support is to provide a detailed written pack containing valuable information regarding all the processes and procedures in place for foster carers to understand how the departments work together in an ongoing investigation.

One of our founding members, the chair and our admin officer worked in conjunction with fostering services to update, overhaul and improve the documentation and

procedural information so that we jointly can give foster families the best possible support if they need to use this resource.

We received the first year's payment of a very welcome three-year grant from BBC Children in Need towards our yearly PGL events. Although they could not go ahead due to covid 19 restrictions, our lead trustee Tina managed to get permissions to adapt residential to wonderful activity days instead enabling many more children to experience the event.

Another residential, Jamie's Farm did go ahead but was amended to 5 day's attendance with one day camping overnight. This experience was amazing for carers and children alike to switch off from the pressures of everyday life and interact with nature at the farm.

Our Trustees tried to find ways to work around Covid and this included fundraising and events squeezed in before the second lockdown; a band night held by R & K, Beachy head marshallng for ESCC, More radio child of Sussex awards, Intuitive Horse sessions for traumatised children, Father Christmas in his Pod with the naughty elf helper, The Widows Sons SE and Eastbourne motorcycle Rideout to Conquest hospital and horse riding lessons at Horam Manor although this was cut short due to Government restrictions being reintroduced.

For our older care leavers some bookings were moved over to 21/22 and one even to 22/23. The pantomime reservation for 200 tickets was also moved to 21/22.

A difficult year for all involved in fostering and our charity but we did manage to have a successful year and financially we are in a very strong position. Our team of 11 Trustees supported by our Admin Officer have adapted as best we could, and we head into 21/22 looking forward to restrictions lifting as and when the Government sees fit.

Lysette Grosvenor

Trustee and Treasurer

If you would like to contact  
Lysette Grosvenor regarding  
ESFCA please email.

[Lysette.grosvenor@esfca.co.uk](mailto:Lysette.grosvenor@esfca.co.uk)

Or visit

[www.esfca.co.uk](http://www.esfca.co.uk)





**East Sussex Foster Care Association**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Donations		2,912		2,912	9,743
Core funding		20,000		20,000	20,000
Advocacy support			2,920	2,920	2,989
Apprentice scheme grant			6,000	6,000	
Fundraising - inc Bluebell walk					5,679
Christmas party					150
Keep it reel					2,000
PGL			9,770	9,770	14,050
Pantomime					1,530
Interest		18		18	74
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>22,930</b>	<b>18,690</b>	<b>41,620</b>	<b>56,214</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Insurance					526
General running expenses		771		771	2,343
Inspire					1,143
Queens award					2,323
Pantomime					3441
PGL					13,131
Through care team		109		109	4,090
Events/Projects		6,992		6,992	2,409
Keep it reel					128
Supporting C!CC					790
Fundraising					654
Intuitive Horse		1,440		1,440	640
Advocacy support			3,395	3,395	2,920
Salaries & pensions		13,298		13,298	14,741
Christmas party					1,089
Computer costs					
Training					
Accountant's fees		1,640		1,640	1,272
<b>Total outgoing resources</b>		<b>24,250</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>27,645</b>	<b>51,638</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year/ Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>(1,320)</b>	<b>15,294</b>	<b>13,975</b>	<b>4,576</b>
Transfers					
Total funds brought forward		81,814	9,453	91,266	86,690
<b>Total resources</b>		<b>80,494</b>	<b>24,747</b>	<b>105,242</b>	<b>91,266</b>

The notes on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# THANK YOU



**MEMBERS  
& VOLUNTEERS**

**East Sussex  
County Council**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



**LEWES**



**EASTBOURNE**

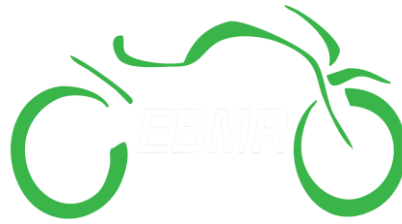
**More**  
RADIO  
Mid Sussex



**REEL POSTER  
GALLERY**  
Page 526

**TRIPP**

# THANK YOU



**EBMR**

**BEACHY HEAD  
10K**

**OUR AMAZING  
FRIENDS AT**

**OUR AMAZING  
FRIENDS AT**

**OUR AMAZING  
FRIENDS AT**

**ASHDOWN  
HOUSE**

**THE  
BERWICK  
INN**



**MUCH ADO BOOKS**

The trustees and members would also like to thank everyone who has volunteered and supported the association over the year.

Your generosity goes a long way in supporting ESFCA and without people like yourselves stepping forward and aiding the association our events, activities and critical projects would not be able to continue.



*“We cannot always  
build the future for  
our youth, but we  
can build our  
youth for the  
future”*

Franklin D. Roosevelt



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>21 January 2022</b>
<b>By:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Strengthening the Local Offer for care leavers in East Sussex</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To update the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) on progress on the Local Offer for Care Leavers and consider options for next steps, including further development of the CPP.</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CPP is asked to agree the proposed approach to reviewing both our offer and our approach to corporate parenting as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 below.**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 All local authorities have a range of statutory obligations to young people who have been in their care, with ongoing support until either age 21 or 25 depending on the needs of the young person. This group is recognised as being highly vulnerable to a range of challenges, with a greater prevalence in prisons, homeless and suffering from mental health difficulties for example. Legislation sets out that care leavers should expect to receive the same level of care and support as others would receive from a reasonable parent. As of December 2021, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is responsible for 333 care leavers aged 18-21, 87 of whom are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young people. The service is also working with an additional 100 young people aged 21-25.

1.2 In February 2018 the Department for Education issued statutory guidance that mandated all local authorities to develop and publish a Care Leaver Local Offer (the offer) and to consult with and involve care leavers in the development of the offer. ESCC met its statutory duty by publishing an offer in 2019, and key elements of the wider offer were condensed into a leaflet that was distributed amongst care leavers. The full offer is attached as Appendix 2.

1.3 During 2018 the results of the Coram Brightspots survey (feedback from ESCC care leavers about their views and experiences) were presented to the CPP. In 2019 an audit tool was developed by Catch 22 and the National Care Leaver Benchmarking Forum and in ESCC this was used in combination with the results of the earlier Brightspots survey to review options for strengthening our offer still further.

### **2. Proposed approach**

2.1 It is proposed that ESCC uses the analysis referenced at 1.3 above as the basis for a series of meetings over the next six months both with other departments in the council and with key partner agencies to review how, in an affordable and sustainable way, we might strengthen our offer. There are a number of no cost/low-cost options that could be pursued and, given the pressures on the Children's Services Department's budget, there may be a need to focus on these. Through the meetings hopefully colleagues might also have ideas, again potentially at low or no cost.

2.2 Such meetings would include a review with colleagues and partners of whether there are ways in which they could contribute on an on-going basis to a broader approach to corporate parenting for the county. At present the CPP rightfully hold the Children's Services Department Looked After Children Service to account for its performance but given that corporate parenting is a whole council responsibility and also a significant area of responsibility for a number of partner agencies, it would be helpful to explore how the membership of the panel might be broadened and how its focus could be widened to look at a broader range of issues affecting this group of young people.

2.3 A summary of the areas of development of the Care Leavers Offer is attached as appendix 1, based on the analysis set out at 1.3. The developments are divided into four groups: a group of developments since the initial offer was published which have already been achieved; a group which

are potentially within the gift of CSD depending on budget choices; a group for consideration by wider colleagues in the council and a group which would need buy-in from partners.

2.4 A presentation is attached at appendix 3 setting out the background, development so far and potential next steps.

### **3. Conclusion and recommendations**

3.1 Considerable progress has already been made on the offer to care leavers in East Sussex but there are still areas that would benefit from a renewed 'push', some of which could be low cost. In that the current budget for the service is under pressure it may be that ESCC has to moderate its aspirations for this group or phase future development. Our proposal is to review options through a series of meetings with other council departments and with partner agencies over the next six months.

3.2 Future development of the offer would be complemented by consideration of a development plan for the CPP to broaden its reach.

3.3 CPP is asked to agree to the proposed approach to reviewing both our offer and our approach to corporate parenting.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact

Liz Rugg, Assistant Director Early Help and Social Care  
Email: [liz.rugg@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:liz.rugg@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Developing the Care Leaver Offer, based on initial self-assessment in Autumn 2021

Appendix 2 – Local Offer to Care Leavers 2019

Appendix 3 - Strengthening the Local Offer for Care Leavers in East Sussex Presentation

## Appendix 1: Developing the Care Leaver Offer, based on initial self-assessment in Autumn 2021

The self- assessment highlights four broad groups of developments:

### 1. Those that have been achieved and are in place

- Health Passport fully embedded
- Project manager appointed as Health & Wellbeing lead, with NHS funding in place to support personalised health budgets.
- The Young People's Substance Misuse service has been extended to age 25.
- 2 Months free membership at all freedom leisure sites for Care Leavers & 1 month free for their 'plus one'.
- Links established with Active Sussex to promote & develop healthy living lifestyles projects for Care Leavers across the County.
- An Independent Social Worker has been commissioned to support Care Leavers gaining access to their records
- Laptop/tablet supplied to all Care Leavers including wi-fi access
- Pupil Premium+ pilot scheme underway to support young people 16+ in further education including English Language provision for UASC.
- Embedded education specialist from Virtual School within the Care Leavers & UASC Services.
- Care Leaver housing protocol has been developed between ESCC & the Districts and Boroughs. All Care Leavers are now categorised as in priority need. Joint housing pathway planning is completed in partnership with housing officers. Range of supported housing options available as a stepping-stone to independent living and tenancy management.
- Established links with Rough Sleepers initiative to provide funding/support for permanent housing solutions for those young people with complex needs and/or at risk of intentional homelessness.
- Council tax exemptions now in place for all ESCC care leavers up to the age of 25 years living within East Sussex.
- Dedicated participation worker embedded within the service to develop strategy & policy and a range of participation events & activities established
- Care Leaver Council established
- Designated worker lead on all benefits related advice in place
- Established named links in all DWP/Job Centres
- Improved Corporate Grandparenting offer in place.

### 2. Those that could be achieved and are in the 'gift' of CSD but which may have cost implications for a budget under pressure.

- Resource to be increased for Care Leavers to access their records and reduce waiting lists plus provide age appropriate Life Story work for Care Leavers
- Use of Family Group Conference Service to be refocussed for the use of older LAC and Care Leavers and to complement the Lifelong Links development work that is underway.
- To mirror the West Sussex offer and extend clothing allowance to £800 pa for under 18 year olds from the present rate of £200.
- Re-establish a multiagency group to focus on work experience, apprenticeships and employment opportunities for Care Leavers.
- Creation of a Rent Guarantor Scheme to extend housing options in the private rental market.
- Weekend and out of hours support to be funded for young people aged 18 +

3. Those that could be delivered within the wider corporate structure of ESCC

- A whole Council' approach to Corporate Parenting to be developed led by elected members and CMT.
- Each ESCC department to make a pledge to Care Leavers specific to their area of service- ASC&H have already agreed to support young people who want to join care settings.
- Protocols to be developed to enable Care Leavers to access wider Corporate services as a priority eg mental health support.
- Introduce prepaid debit cards to reduce demands on the current petty cash systems
- Develop digital and social media support to Care Leavers
- Redesign of the Local Offer on the ESCC website

4. Those that would need support and sign-up from partners

- Free Prescriptions- negotiations started with the CCG in 2020 based on an existing model from Oldham with ballpark costs etc no timescale as yet for a decision
- Extension of equal access to leisure facilities across the county- this would need the support of the Districts and Boroughs
- Council Tax waiver to be extended to all Care Leavers resident in ESCC and across housing borders- this would need support from the districts and boroughs and from other LAs.
- Development of a training flat to be explored to support tenancy management. Step down accommodation for 18+ to support the transition into mainstream accommodation from High Intensive supported accommodation- would need the support of the Districts and Boroughs.
- Discounted travel options- this would need the support of Communities Economy and Transport dept. within ESCC and of the bus/train companies.

[eastsussex.gov.uk](http://eastsussex.gov.uk)



# Local Offer to Care leavers 2019

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## Introduction

This leaflet tells you about all the support that is available in East Sussex to you as a care leaver.

Becoming an adult can be difficult. Things like leaving school, finding a job, starting a relationship, setting up home and becoming a parent don't always happen in a neat order. We know that it's a big step to move to living on your own and that it's normal for every young person to need help with that. We want to make sure that you feel supported and know where and who to go to for advice and help.

To be able to get the support detailed in this leaflet, you must have been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday) or for 13 weeks after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you're not sure whether you have, then ask your social worker or personal advisor.

As a local authority we are your corporate parents, this may seem like a strange term but it means that care leavers should expect the same level of care and support that others would expect from a reasonable parent. The East Sussex Through Care Service helps make sure that care leavers have the opportunities they need, including offering you more than one chance as you grapple with taking on the responsibilities of adulthood. We know that not everyone gets it right first time.

This leaflet is available online at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/13076/local-offer-for-care-leavers-2019-2020.pdf> or you can email [Care.LeaversService@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Care.LeaversService@eastsussex.gov.uk) to request more copies.

## Support we offer

### Personal advisor

- ❖ From April 2018 care leavers have the right to support from a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25
- ❖ The role of a personal advisor is to help care leavers prepare for independent living and to support them after they leave care.
- ❖ Personal advisors are responsible for ensuring that a Pathway Plan is developed and kept up to date for each care leaver until they reach 21.
- ❖ We will try and ensure that care leavers are able to work with the same personal advisor where possible.
- ❖ Until you reach 21 your personal advisor will see you regularly; at least every two months; and keep in touch with you between visits.

### Pathway Plan

- ❖ We will prepare a Pathway Plan for all young people leaving care that sets out the things you want to achieve and how we will help you to achieve them.
- ❖ We will start developing the Pathway Plan while you are still in care, around your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ❖ We must review your Pathway Plan at least every six months until you reach 21.
- ❖ We will support you to be involved in preparing and reviewing the Pathway Plan.

## **Support to engage in education, employment or training**

We want to make sure every young person leaving care has the support to achieve their goals in life.

We are here to help you with your educational journey, if you have a query about this just ask us and we will help.

The Virtual School for Children in Care East Sussex works with Children and Young People (early years up to 25 if progressing in education) who are in, or have been in, the care of East Sussex. We will work closely with the Virtual School to ensure you are supported in all aspects of your education.

We have good links with Universities and opportunities for summer Schools from year 10 upwards.

We may be able to offer additional support post 16 with tutoring and funding equipment.

### **Financial Support at College**

If you are under 19 years and are in, or have been in, the care of East Sussex you will be entitled to a Bursary, we will assist you in applying for this.

### **PEP (Personal Education Plan)**

As a Looked After Child / Care leaver you are entitled to a Personal Education Plan (PEPs), these will be reviewed once a term until you finish at college.

### **Apprenticeships/Traineeships**

If you are living independently or in Supported Lodgings the Virtual School may be able to contribute towards the cost of travel and essential equipment, we will also support you by ensuring that you are not financially disadvantaged.

### **Work Experience**

East Sussex County Council may be able to offer work experience opportunities within different areas of the Council. The council has made a commitment to considering recruiting care leavers in to permanent roles within East Sussex County Council where appropriate.

### **Employment**

You will have access to the Youth Employability Service who will assist you in completing CV's, interview skills and finding employment. We will also support you to find and sustain employment. Depending on your circumstances we can assist you in purchasing interview clothes and with the cost of travel to interviews. We will also ensure that you have enough money to live on until you receive your first wages.



### Support offered in Higher Education:

- ❖ Once it is agreed that higher education is the right route for you, your accommodation will be paid for. This includes providing accommodation for you during the holidays where necessary.
- ❖ The University you have applied for may guarantee accommodation in the Universities halls of residence for your first year of study.
- ❖ You will receive a £2000 bursary.
- ❖ You will be supported in applying for additional finance and maintenance grants via student finance.
- ❖ Universities often provide additional bursaries. You are advised to link up with the named person at university and the widening participation teams. We will support you with this and will ask for your permission to stay in contact with your support network at university.
- ❖ If you get the opportunity to do an Internship as part of your University course, you will have accommodation paid and a contribution towards travel expenses can be considered on an individual need basis.
- ❖ The Virtual School will fund UCAS/CUCAS applications if school bursaries are not available.
- ❖ The Virtual School will support costs linked to interviews and we will support you in attending open days.

We hold an annual event to celebrate your successes in education, employment and training.

## Accommodation

If you are aged over 18, your personal advisor will help you to find suitable accommodation. This might involve:

- ❖ Working with housing services to explore suitable housing options for you, including supported accommodation if you are not ready to live independently or don't want to have your own tenancy.
- ❖ Supporting you to remain with your foster carers under what's called a 'Staying Put' arrangement if this is what you and your foster carers or supported lodgings providers want.
- ❖ Giving you high priority access to social housing in accordance with our housing allocation policy.
- ❖ Supporting you in a housing crisis, and ensuring that you will have somewhere to live up to the age of 21
- ❖ Supporting you to access your setting up home grant that can be used to furnish your first property, this is £2,000.
- ❖ Supporting you with moving in to your property, this includes with removals and getting your first week's shopping.
- ❖ We will provide advice about maintaining a tenancy, including avoiding rent arrears paying bills etc. This will be both through your personal advisor, placement support workers and independence courses run by the Through Care Service.
- ❖ We will exempt you from Council Tax until you are 25 if you are living in East Sussex
- ❖ Help to access charities and other schemes to support you furnishing and setting up your home.

## Health and Wellbeing

We will support you in getting the support you need around your physical and mental health by offering:

- ❖ A health passport for you when you leave care which will give your health history.
- ❖ Support for you to register at health services when moving home.
- ❖ Ongoing mental health support provided by a nurse specialist within the Through Care Service who will support you to access appropriate support
- ❖ Transport costs when you are attending hospital or doctors' appointments.
- ❖ Additional support to you if you are a young parent.
- ❖ Ongoing support beyond your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and involving Adult Social Care if this is needed.
- ❖ Information about counselling and health drop in services available locally.
- ❖ Give advice about healthy living
- ❖ Give advice about getting help to pay for prescriptions.

## Money / Finances

We will offer:

- ❖ A living allowance of £60 per week from age 16 to 17 if you are living in supported lodgings or semi-independent accommodation.
- ❖ A clothing allowance of £200 per year if you are under 18 and you're not living in foster care or residential.
- ❖ Support with budgeting
- ❖ Support to access relevant money management courses.
- ❖ Support to access your Junior ISA savings account.
- ❖ Support to open a bank account.
- ❖ Support to get a National Insurance number.
- ❖ Exceptional financial support in emergencies up to the age of 21
- ❖ Support to make a claim for Universal Credit
- ❖ Financial support for all UASC who are unable to claim benefits whilst their claim for asylum is being processed.
- ❖ A gift on your birthday, at Christmas or the significant religious festival that you celebrate, if you're not living in foster care or residential.

## Relationships

As well as support from your social worker and your personal advisor, we may be able to offer you additional practical and emotional support, such as through:

- ❖ Providing you with a placement support worker
- ❖ Where appropriate, continuing to support contact with the 'Independent Visitor' service and an advocate if you want one.
- ❖ Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you, or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers, residential staff or social workers.
- ❖ Support to reconnect with family members where it is what you want and in your best interest. If you are an unaccompanied young person this can include support to find your family through the Red Cross.

## Important Documents

We know that it is important that you have the correct documents in order to confirm your identity we will:

- ❖ Support you to apply for documents such as your Passport, Provisional Driving Licence and Birth Certificate, we will fund these documents.
- ❖ Support you to get your immigration documentation if you are an unaccompanied young person

## Participation and being involved

We want our care leavers to be active members of society, and to have all the chances in life that other young adults have. We can help you participate in society in the following ways:

- ❖ Support from a dedicated Participation Personal Advisor
- ❖ Providing information on groups and clubs you may wish to join.
- ❖ Informing you about relevant awards, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests.
- ❖ Encouraging and helping you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in elections.
- ❖ Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in.
- ❖ Informing you of, and possibly helping out with, the cost of leisure activities.
- ❖ Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver.

As a Local Authority we want our commitment to you to apply to everything we do, therefore, as well as specific support set out above we commit to:

- ❖ Ensuring any changes to policy that could affect care leavers are evaluated for impact on care leavers.
- ❖ Making sure that everybody who works for, or on behalf of, the council understands what it means to be a corporate parent and promotes equality, diversity and inclusion, prioritising care leavers for opportunities and encouraging them.

## Key contacts or websites

### East Sussex Care leavers service

These are the contact details for the Care leavers team at East Sussex County Council

T: 01273 335150

Email: [Care.Leavers@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Care.Leavers@eastsussex.gov.uk)

### C360

This link will take you to the East Sussex County Council website for young people:

<https://www.c360.org.uk/>

### Coram Voice

This link will help you figure out your rights and entitlements as a Care Leaver. They also have other advice and information.

<http://www.coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/am-i-care-leaver>

### National Care Advisory Service (NCAS)

Part of Catch22, the national advice, support and development service focusing on young people's transition from care.

T: 020 7336 4846

<https://www.catch-22.org.uk/>

## **Voice**

Offers advocacy support to care leavers and children in care, including a national helpline.

T: 0808 8005792

[www.voiceyp.org](http://www.voiceyp.org)

## **Become (Previously called The Who Cares? Trust)**

Their mission is to provide help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers.

<http://www.becomecharity.org.uk>

## **Care Leavers' Foundation**

Small grants scheme for care leavers aged up to 29.

[www.thecareleaversfoundation.org/grants.php](http://www.thecareleaversfoundation.org/grants.php)

## **Discretionary Learner Support**

Help for 19 year olds or over who are having trouble with meeting the costs of participating in further education at college.

<http://bit.ly/fhngna>

## **The Care Leavers' Association**

National Charity run by care leavers offering support and advice

T: 0161 236 1980

[www.careleavers.com](http://www.careleavers.com)

## **Homeworks housing support and advice**

T: 01273 898 700

<https://www.southdown.org/housing-support/home-works-east-sussex>

## **ESCC Complaints link**

<https://escchildrenscomplaints.freshdesk.com/support/tickets/new>

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# **Strengthening the Local Offer for Care Leavers in East Sussex**

**CPP 21.1.2022**

# Background

- December 2021 333 Care Leavers 18-21, 87 of which are Unaccompanied Asylum- Seeking Young people. 100 young people 21+
- Statutory duty to provide support until aged 21 years or 25 depending on needs/wishes.
- Care Leavers should expect to receive the same level of care and support that any other young person would receive from reasonable parents/grandparents.
- DfE statutory guidance (Feb 2018) required all local authorities to develop and publish a Local Offer.
- ESCC Local Offer published in 2019 which is accessible on the Council website.



# Developments and progress made to the Local Offer since 2019

- Health Passport fully embedded.
- Project Manager appointed as Health & Wellbeing lead with NHS funding in place to support personalised health budgets.
- Young People's Substance Misuse Service extended to 25
- 2 months free membership for Care Leavers at all Freedom Leisure sites & 1 month free for their 'plus one'.
- Links established with Active Sussex to promote & develop healthy living lifestyles projects for Care Leavers across the County.
- Independent Social Worker commissioned to support Care Leavers gaining access to their records.
- Laptop/Tablet supplied to all Care Leavers including wi-fi access.
- Pupil Premium+ pilot scheme underway to support young people aged 16+ in further education including English Language provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs).
- Embedded education specialist from Virtual School within the Care Leaver's service & UASC Service.

## Developments and progress made to Local Offer since 2019 continued ...

- Care Leaver housing protocol developed between ESCC & the Districts and Boroughs. All Care Leavers now categorised as in priority need with joint housing pathway planning completed. Range of supported housing options available as a stepping-stone to independent living and tenancy management.
- Established links with Rough Sleepers Initiative to provide funding/support for permanent housing solutions for those young people with complex needs and/or at risk of intentional homelessness.
- Council tax exemptions now in place for all ESCC care leavers up to the age of 25 years living within East Sussex.
- Dedicated Participation Worker embedded within the service to develop strategy & policy. Range of participation events & activities established.
- Care Leaver Council established.
- Designated worker lead on all benefits related advice.
- Established named links in all DWP/Job Centres.
- Corporate Grandparenting Offer strengthened

## What next? Ideas

- Series of meetings to be coordinated with all ESCC departments
- Series of meetings with partner agencies to explore how the offer can be enhanced.
- Corporate Parenting Panel to consider how best to complement any new developments.

## **Possible next steps for the Children's Services Dept.**

- Increase Care Leaver's access to their records and Life Story work.
- Family Group Conference Service to be developed for older LAC and Care Leavers, alongside Lifelong Links initiative to look at safe reunification/family support.
- Extend clothing allowance from the current rate of £200 pa to £800 pa for under 18's.
- Re-establish a multiagency group to focus on work experience, apprenticeships and employment opportunities for Care Leavers.
- Rent Guarantor Scheme to be adopted thus extending housing options for Care Leavers into the private market.
- Weekend and out of hours support to be funded for 18+ year olds.

## Possible next steps for the wider Council

- A 'whole Council' approach to Corporate Parenting to be developed and to be led by elected members and CMT.
- Each ESCC department to make a pledge to Care Leavers specific to their area of service.
- Protocols to be developed to enable Care Leavers to access wider Corporate services as a priority e.g., mental health support.
- Introduce prepaid debit cards to reduce demands on the current petty cash systems.
- Develop digital and social media support to Care Leavers.
- Re-design the Local Offer on ESCC website.

# Possible next steps for partner agencies

- Free Prescriptions (CCG).
- Extension of equal access to leisure facilities across the county (Districts and Boroughs).
- Council Tax waiver to be extended to all Care Leavers resident in ESCC and across housing borders. (Districts and Boroughs and other LAs).
- Development of a training flat to be explored to support tenancy management. Step down accommodation for 18+ year olds to support the transition into mainstream accommodation from High Intensive supported accommodation (Districts and Boroughs).
- Discounted travel options (Communities, Economy & Transport Department and local bus/train companies).

Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>21 January 2022</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>
<hr/>	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on and note the report.</b>
<hr/>	

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

1.1 Services for Looked After Children (LAC) are predominantly funded from the Children's Services base budget with some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity for example, Virtual School activity from the Pupil Premium Grant.

1.2 Data is drawn as a snapshot on the last day of the month and inevitably there will be some changes subsequently as data is cleansed, however as things stand currently, the past quarter has seen a slight increase in numbers of children and on the last day of December there were 620 children in care, up from 618 in September. The system remains extremely busy as children come in and go home and placements for existing children disrupt and they need to be moved, with continued difficulty in the supply of external agency placements when in-house capacity is full.

1.3 A total of 344 children were in foster care at the end of December, with 267 living with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) carers and a further 77 children living with agency carers, a rise of 3 over the quarter. In addition, we have 73 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels, a decrease of 5 over the quarter. 17 children were placed for adoption, 8 further children being placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

1.4 At the end of the quarter 89 children with living with kinship foster carers.

1.5 The number of children living at home with their parents whilst remaining subject to a legal order to ESCC stood at 21. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously to mitigate any risk factors. Agreement to begin or end a placement with parents is given at a senior level, unless it is court mandated when realistically ESCC has no choice in the matter.

1.6 At the end of December, the number of children living in residential children's homes has stayed stable at 62. Staff continue to make every effort to place children in our in-house homes before they seek agreement from a senior manager for an agency placement and robust negotiations on both quality and price are a feature of every external placement search. The building works at the new children's home in Hastings are still not finished and once the building is handed over to CSD, the Ofsted registration will need to be completed before it can open.

1.7 At the end of December 1 ESCC child remain secured at Lansdowne. Exit planning is ongoing for this child with the hope that they will be able to move shortly and once their new placement has completed its Ofsted registration. Another young person left secure provision just before Christmas following significant work with both the agency provider and with Ofsted to complete the registration of the home in time for their move, timescales being dictated by the ending of their Secure Order.

1.8 At the end of the quarter there were 2 children remanded for criminal activity, one to custody and 1 to the care of ESCC. Both were accorded LAC status by virtue of their remands and for both, their LAC status will end when they are sentenced.

1.9 60 young people were seeking asylum at the end of December, down 4 over the quarter. Some young people seeking asylum and already in our care turned 18 during this quarter and so moved out of these numbers but remained eligible for ongoing support as care leavers. ESCC continues to take part in the National Transfer Scheme that is now mandated by the Government.

1.10 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders have stayed steady at 342 and the number of children placed with a Special Guardianship Order has increased by 7 to 466.

1.11 There were no complaints from a LAC in the last quarter.

## **2. Conclusion and recommendations**

2.1 Pressure on the system continues, driven by complexity of children and costs for placements. External agency placements remain very scarce.

2.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel are recommended to comment on and note the report.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

### Contact

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# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2021

Placement Type	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	6	6	7	6	6	4	1	1	1			
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	16	18	17	18	18	18	15	15	14	15	15	14
H5 - Residential accommodation	61	63	59	58	57	62	62	60	62	58	62	62
K1 - Secure unit	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	69	70	69	73	73	75	75	75	78	75	72	73
P1 - Placed with own parents	29	24	22	21	26	30	27	32	29	30	23	21
P2 - Independent living	4	5	6	6	5	4	5	4	4	2	2	2
R1 - Residential care home	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
R2 - NHS/Health Trust		1				1	1					1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison			1	1							2	1
S1 - All Residential schools	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U2 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	3	3	11	11	11	10	10	11	10	9	9	9
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	54	60	56	53	57	55	60	60	71	71	74	80
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	63	61	187	186	184	183	178	177	173	171	171	170
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	2	2						1	1	3	8	8
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	299	292	169	173	168	175	176	170	169	173	174	174
Total	614	612	611	612	611	624	617	612	618	613	618	620

Immigration Status	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Asylum Seeker	11	9	9	5	2							
British Citizen	2	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Humanitarian Protection applied for under ECHR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Refugee Status	24	24	24	20	18	18	18	18	18	16	15	13
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	21	21	21	22	25	28	34	36	38	40	40	39

Legal Status	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	341	341	341	341	340	340	342	342	342	342	342	342
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	454	453	453	452	456	456	458	459	459	461	465	466