



## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2022

10.00 AM COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

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

### A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2022 (*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. Children in Care Council (CiCC) Annual Report - 2021 - 2022 (*Pages 7 - 18*)  
Report by the Director of Children's Services
6. Developing the Corporate Parenting Panel (discussion item) - verbal report
7. Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics (*Pages 19 - 22*)  
Report by Director of Children's Services.
8. Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.
9. 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.
10. Ofsted Inspection reports for Brodrick House (*Pages 23 - 32*)
11. Children's Home Regulations 2015, Regulation 44: Inspection reports
  - 11.1 Acorns at Dorset Road (*Pages 33 - 102*)
  - 11.2 Brodrick House (*Pages 103 - 266*)

- 11.3 Hazel Lodge (*Pages 267 - 368*)
  - 11.4 Homefield Cottage (*Pages 369 - 448*)
  - 11.5 Lansdowne Secure Unit (*Pages 449 - 536*)
  - 11.6 The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive (*Pages 537 - 606*)
12. Any other exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

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

21 April 2022

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## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 21 January 2022.

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

ALSO PRESENT Alison Jeffery – Director of Children's Services  
Liz Rugg – Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care  
Sally Carnie – Head of Looked After Children Services  
Teresa Lavelle-Hill – Head of Looked After Children Services  
Jill Nwokedi – Practice Manager, Care Leavers Service  
Sally Williams – Operations Manager  
Roy Noble – Deputy Registered Homes Manager, Homefield Cottage  
Shirin White - Registered Homes Manager, Acorns  
Nicola Scott – Operations Manager, LAC Services  
Scott Lipa – Registered Homes Manager, Lansdowne  
Georgia Carty – Residential Homes Manager, Hazel Lodge  
Steven Crowe – Registered Homes Manager, Brodrick House  
Susanne Beesly – Chairperson, East Sussex Foster Carers Association

### 25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2021

25.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record, with one amendment to include a personal, non-prejudicial disclosure of interest from Councillor Matthew Milligan in that a close family member is an East Sussex County Council Foster parent.

### 26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

26.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Johnny Denis.

### 27. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

27.1 Councillor Matthew Milligan declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest that a close family member is an East Sussex County Council Foster parent.

### 28. URGENT ITEMS

28.1 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel agreed it would be beneficial to have an opportunity to discuss in more detail their role as corporate parents and the work of the Panel. The Children's Services Department therefore undertook to liaise with Member Services over related arrangements for a discussion to take place at the appropriate time.

### 29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

29.1 RESOLVED - to exclude the public and press from the meeting for items 6 and 7 on the agenda (see minutes 30 and 31) 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.

30. OFSTED INSPECTION REPORT FOR LANSDOWNE SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME

30.1 The Panel welcomed the report and received a verbal update from the Registered Homes Manager (RHM).

30.2 RESOLVED – to note the report.

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

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

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

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

31.3 The Panel were updated on and discussed a wide range of issues, including: the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on Children's Homes, the Christmas period at the homes, building works and recruitment and staffing changes.

31.4 RESOLVED – to note the reports.

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

32. There were none.

33. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION (ESFCA) 2020-21

33.1 The Panel considered a report by the East Sussex Foster Care Association (ESFCA) which presented an update on the work of the charity. The Chair of ESFCA presented the report, highlighting the key activities undertaken by ESFCA and their plans for future development. These included:

- **Covid lockdown survey:** The Covid-19 pandemic, which led to a rise in the use of technology, home schooling and working from home, created challenges for fostering families and also provided opportunities for development. The ESFCA and the ESCC Fostering Service therefore created and distributed a survey to gather information from foster families on their experience of Covid-19 lockdowns. The survey sought information on continuance of contact, placement support, home schooling, and the financial, welfare and wellbeing support provided by the local authority. The information gathered has provided helpful insights into the impact of Covid-19 on East Sussex foster carers. The outcomes were also collated into a report and presented to the ESCC

Children's Services Department.

- **Suitcase initiative:** The ESFCA has continued its suitcase initiative, distributing over 200 suitcases to children that have had to be moved as an emergency or travelling for respite. To help ensure they have a feeling of dignity, the initiative ensures children do not pack their belongings in plastic bags when they are required to move.
- **Book Club:** The ESFCA, along with charity patron and children's author, Jacqueline Wilson, launched their virtual book club on Christmas Eve 2021. This book club takes place every two weeks on a Friday and each month the ESFCA sends small gifts to the book club members.

33.2 Alison Jeffrey, Director of Children's Services, also informed the Panel that she and Councillor Bob Bowdler (Lead Member for Children and Families) attended the ESFCA Annual General meeting and were impressed with the important work the charity undertakes.

33.3 RESOLVED – to note the report.

#### 34. STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS IN EAST SUSSEX

34.1 The Panel considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the progress of the Local Offer for Care Leavers and options for the next steps in developing this offer.

34.2 Sally Carnie, Head of Looked After Children Services introduced the report and delivered a presentation to the Panel. The Panel were informed that Department for Education (DfE) guidance from 2018 required all local authorities to develop and publish a Local Offer, which ESCC subsequently published in 2019. Since then ESCC has undertaken the Coram Brightspots survey of care leavers regarding their views and experiences and have also used an audit tool developed by the charity Catch 22 and the National Care Leaver Benchmarking Forum to explore this area further. It is now proposed that ESCC use this information to review options for strengthening the Local Offer.

34.3 The Panel heard that in developing the Local Offer the Department are planning on holding a series of meetings with all departments of the Council and partner agencies to explore where further support could be provided to care leavers. The Corporate Parenting Panel will also be consulted and given opportunity to consider development options as the new Local Offer is developed.

34.4 The Panel welcomed the development of the Local Offer and discussed a number of points, including:

- **Involvement from the Care Leavers Council:** The Panel discussed the importance of ensuring that care leavers themselves play an active role in the development of the Local Offer and sought assurance that the Care Leavers Council would be involved. The Department confirmed that the views and ideas of the Care Leavers Council will form a key part of the engagement process when developing the new offer. The Panel further heard that one positive outcome of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has been the increased use of technology to convene meetings of the Care Leavers Council. This has allowed the Department to have more regular conversations with the group to discuss elements of the new offer.
- **Budget implications for the proposals:** The Panel asked the Department whether ESCC is able to fund proposals which might be included in the strengthened Local Offer. In response the Panel were informed that the Department will, where possible, seek to ensure new proposals have 'no cost or low cost'. The Department may also have to

moderate its aspirations if the budget for the service comes under pressure. Members were also assured that the financial implications and any budget constraints will be carefully considered as the proposals evolve.

- **Education and employment for care leavers:** The Panel asked the Department for more detail regarding the steps being taken to ensure suitable education and employment opportunities are provided for care leavers within the new offer. Jill Nwokedi, Practice Manager for the Care Leavers Service, assured the Panel that these were key areas of focus and highlighted the important role that the Virtual School has had in ensuring that education is at the forefront of the support for care leavers. The Panel also heard that the role of apprenticeships and work experience for care leavers is already embedded within the offer, but that the role of mentoring, in particular for young men, is a new area which the Department will be taking forward alongside local employment groups.

34.5 The Panel highlighted the importance that they feel Members can play in supporting all LAC and Care Leavers.

34.6 RESOLVED – to note the report.

35. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

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

35.2 Liz Rug, Assistant Director for Early Help and Social Care updated the Panel on the latest data regarding LAC in East Sussex. Members heard that in the last quarter there has been a slight increase in LAC with 618 children in September and 620 on the last day of December. 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. The number of UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) was down 4 over the reporting period, taking the total number at the end of December to 60.

35.3 RESOLVED – to note the report.

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

36.1 There were none.

Chair

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **26 April 2022**

Title of Report: **Children in Care Council (CiCC) Annual Report – 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**

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

Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on the work of the Children in Care Council.**

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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 The Children in Care Council (CiCC) was established in 2008. The CiCC Membership currently comprises of 12 young people.

1.2 The Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 sets out the work of the CiCC between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 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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### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Children in Care Council Annual Report – 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.







**the children in care council**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**ESCC Children in Care Council has been well established since 2008. The fifth CICC commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Due to Covid, they will serve for an extended 12 months until summer 2023.**

The following summary report outlines the areas of work the CICC have covered this year.

This has been another challenging year for the CICC members who have been juggling disrupted education, family life and general uncertainty. Throughout this they have shown significant resilience and stayed committed to their role. Solid friendships have been made and they have continued to support each other outside of the meetings.

It has been my privilege to attend two of the CICC's Meetings and hear about the amazing work they have completed up to now and their plans for the future. They gave an impressive presentation to showcase their work and my thanks go to the CICC members and CICC coordinator for their continued dedication to their role.

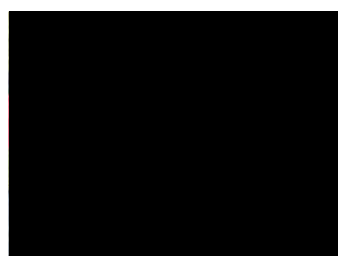
Tracey Millen  
Practice Manager  
Fostering/CICC



## **Introduction**

The CICC has continued to meet regularly whilst adhering to national guidance on restrictions. CICC members have stayed focussed and committed to their role throughout the past year, ensuring other young people's voices have been heard, and that cared for children's views, wishes and feelings are considered. This helps us to keep the work of the CICC prominent and as important as ever.

The CICC composition was reviewed and in the past year, further recruitment has taken place ensuring membership continues to be inclusive. This will continue to take place, so that we can ensure proportionate representation from black and minority ethnic groups and the inclusion of young people with disabilities.



## What is the Children in care council (CICC)?

The Children in care council is a group of cared for young people aged 13 – 18. They are a representative voice for all children and young people cared for by East Sussex County Council. CICC members hold a key role in raising issues affecting them.

The CICC is supported and managed by the Placement Support Service.

### Membership

CICC Membership currently comprises of **12** young people (6 male and 6 female) aged 13 – 18.

In addition, we have one member at university who participates during holidays or virtually when possible.

## Summary of CICC activity

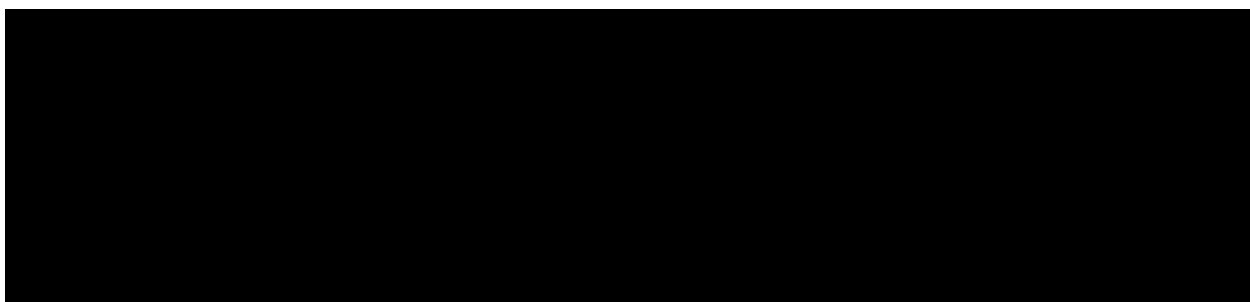
April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

### Covid 19 and Participation

In line with Government guidelines, at the start of the year we began meeting again in smaller groups, as well as in larger outdoor sessions. Much of the focus in the first half of the year was on keeping CICC members connected with each other and maintaining their relationships, which took precedent over their official CICC work. This in turn enabled them to work flexibly in smaller groups both in person and virtually, as well as supporting each other outside of the meetings.

CICC staff deliver sessions and support with a nurturing approach, which enables the young people to feel valued and in turn encourages long term commitment and participation. Communication, although this can be done via technology, our members have expressed their preference for receiving correspondence by mail.

Despite the disruption over the year, CICC members have continued to demonstrate resilience to change and have participated in **26** opportunities to promote their work to gather the views of cared for children ensuring they are heard and promoted. (Appendix 1)



## **SUSS it (Speak up Sessions)**

This year, due to reduced numbers of people meeting in groups, CICC members have been restricted in the amount of holiday activities they could visit.

The CICC Co-ordinator attended some of the **29** activities giving **59** young people the opportunity to speak out and speak up if they wanted too (Appendix 2)

Through this engagement **21** young people have asked for help with individual issues.

Interestingly for the first time, the number of young people asking for help with contact issues has declined. It is hoped conversations are becoming easier between social workers and young people in this area.

There has been an increase with issues involving technology and we expect this to grow, as the digital world continues to become more embedded in young people's lives. Managing screen time and taking digital responsibility is often challenging and this can have long term consequences if young people are not taught how to stay safe online.

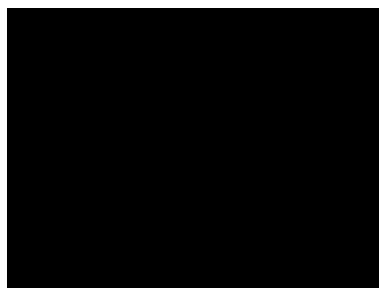
It is recognised that for the majority, online meetings should not be a replacement for face-to-face contact post pandemic.

There has also been an increase in worries around education, mainly with regards to exams. For those not sitting exams this can cause anxiety, wondering how coursework only with no exam results, may impact on their future choices.

It should be noted that this year for the first time all issues raised with social workers have been acknowledged and addressed.

## **Digital Ambassadors**

All of the CICC have been involved in the digital care project being run by East Sussex County Council to train, update and promote resources for keeping cared for children safe and resilient online. Some CICC members will progress next year to become Digital Ambassadors and will be involved in the training of staff and adults who work with cared for children. This project will run throughout 2022.



## Buddy Scheme

Four CICC members attended four weeks training, to become buddies for the buddy scheme that we have piloted this year. The scheme provides support to children entering care from a buddy who is already care experienced. One buddy is actively supporting another young person and this support will continue and grow.

## University Masters Students

CICC members facilitated their annual two-hour face to face lecture at Brighton University with social workers, undertaking their master's degree. CICC members discussed their role, their projects and delivered an interactive "separation and loss" exercise. The University feedback was that the lecture was extremely powerful and thought-provoking, for all post graduate students.

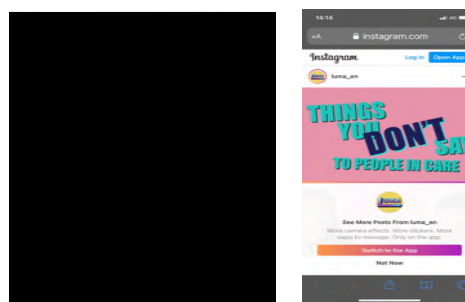
## CICC Partnership working

### Luma

Working in partnership with Ramshackle productions and Eggtooth, two community-based art companies, CICC Members were involved in creating a youth led social media channel for young people's positive online content. They spent time designing, creating, directing, and filming their own content during the spring and summer months.

The CICC made a film entitled '10 things you don't say to people in care'. This was professionally filmed, edited, and posted on Luma's Instagram channel.

Care Leavers and former CICC members were part of the cast which was a great opportunity to keep connections between current and former members with the younger ones asking questions about independence, university, and the support that they receive as care leavers.

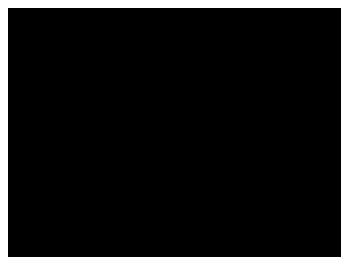


### Youth Cabinet

Working alongside other youth voice groups is something CICC value. They have built good links over the years with Youth Cabinet, ESCV and other youth voice groups within East Sussex.

The CICC and the youth cabinet joint together for a team day at Bushy wood. They worked together consulting on various campaigns and services within East Sussex.

They also had the opportunity to meet Cllr Bowdler who was the newly appointed lead member for children and families. Making and maintaining links with other youth voice groups has always been extremely important to CICC as this not only leads to exciting collaborative work, but also builds confidence with skills such as positive communication and negotiation.



#### Youth Inspect & Advise Group (YIAG) project.

Four CICC members were accepted by ESCV (East Sussex Community Voice) along with other young people from across the county, to form the Youth Inspect & Advise Group. Their role was to Inspect the mental health and emotional wellbeing services being provided in four East Sussex secondary schools. They then worked with the school staff to help discuss how the school could improve the mental health support they give their students.

This project was totally youth-led, making it a unique and exciting project for both the young people and the schools involved.

## **Training, Accreditation and Volunteering**

### **Volunteering**

All CICC members have received framed certificates for the volunteering hours they have completed this year for their CICC role and work in their local communities. In total, as a group they have completed **964** volunteering hours over the past 12 months.

### **Funding**

CICC have secured an extra **£1288.30** in extra funding this year from the HAF and COMF Government scheme. This has been used for two, enriching team building activities – Ice Skating at Christmas and Ninja Warrior in February half term. Both activities were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved.

Further funding applications will be submitted during the year to buy in more training and qualifications for cared for young people to enhance their CV's.

## CICC Participation

### DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVITY

8 x Full Meetings  
 3 x Smaller Group Meetings  
 1 x Celebration trip to Thorpe Park  
 18 x Individual Support  
 9 x Junior Suss it  
 9 x Senior Suss it  
 9 x Inter Suss it  
 3 x New members  
 8 x YAIG Meetings  
 7 x Social Media Meetings  
 4 x Peer Mentoring Training  
 1 x Matched Buddy  
 1 x Digital passport consultation Internet Matters  
 1 x Jamie's Farm Visit  
 1 x Virtual School Conference  
 2 x Lansdowne Secure unit interviews  
 4 x NQSW interviews  
 2 x ESCC Interviews  
 1 x joint meeting with Youth Cabinet  
 1 x library consultation  
 3 x Food Hygiene training  
 1 x 3 Month Summer Placement  
 1 x ANV National Survey  
 2 x Meetings with Cllr Bowdler Lead Member for Children & Families  
 1 x Meeting with Ade Sewell Operations Manager  
 2 x Meetings with Tracey Millen Practice Manager  
 2 x Visits to Silver Birches residential home  
 1 x IRO consult  
 1 x University lecture  
 2 x Meetings with principle Social Worker  
 1 x Input to staff digital seminar  
 5 x Digital Ambassador Consultation  
 1 x LAC nurse / health assessment consultation

### SUSS IT (Appendix 1)

#### Nos of issues raised with CICC 21

##### Subjects

Social Worker	3
Contact	4
Placement / Respite	2
Other	3
Education / Employment	3
Digital	2
Mental Health	4

<b>You Said</b>  <i>CICC or other CLA</i>	<b>We Did</b>  <i>CICC or teams within ESCC</i>
<p>You wanted social workers to bare in mind your ideas and thoughts on key messages in their work with young people.</p>	<p>Nicola McGeown made a film with you, on these key messages which will be used for future training for social workers.</p>
<p>The waiting list for CICC was so long and you felt you would never get a chance to become a member.</p>	<p>We have decided to introduce taster days twice a year for some young people on the waiting list, so they can start to become more involved.</p>
<p>National Insurance numbers are still taking too long to arrive and are preventing you from starting work.</p>	<p>You raised this with Alison Jeffery Director for Children's Services, and we will follow this up with her.</p>
<p>It is important young people have an input into the training that adults who work with young people receive.</p>	<p>CICC facilitate a lecture at Brighton University with Students doing their social work master's degree on a yearly basis.</p> <p>CICC continue to regularly participate in interview panels for staff recruitment within ESCC</p>
<p>You raised concerns that the pandemic had prevented you from meeting with other CICC's and youth voice groups, to share ideas as you have done in previous years.</p>	<p>A full day joint visit was held with youth cabinet and CICC for both team building and campaign working opportunities.</p> <p>Membership for Sussex clubs for young people and A National Voice has been renewed to broaden opportunities for networking.</p>
<p>You wanted better links with young people living in residential care</p>	<p>Some of the CICC attended the official opening of Silver Birches residential home and were asked their views on the new building and what they would have liked if they were living there.</p> <p>The CICC are keen to set up regular meetings with the young people living here once it is open.</p>
<p>You were all concerned that there may be some lasting effects due to the trauma and anxiety that people have felt through the lockdown and that this may not be a short-term problem.</p>	<p>You raised this for consideration / discussion at RPPR and are awaiting feedback.</p>
<p>You made contact and asked to get involved in CICC type work, but you were over 16.</p>	<p>We contacted the leaving care participation worker and you have since become involved in their .work on behalf of care leavers</p>



<b>You Said</b>  <i>CICC or other CLA</i>	<b>We Did</b>  <i>CICC or teams within ESCC</i>
Mental health services need to be accessible throughout your care journey. Young People need to be listened to if they are saying that now is not the right time for them to access the services offered.	You raised this for consideration / discussion at RPPR and are awaiting feedback
You wanted a CV that would give you confidence in applying for part time work.	<p>You had a one-to-one support session in which a CV was written for you.</p> <p>You emailed and asked Clubs for Young People for CV writing training.</p> <p>We advertised Free Food Hygiene training in the 2021 newsletter.</p>
The information regarding MVM meetings needs to be young person friendly and more accessible In order for cared for children to attend.	<p>You met with Fiona Lewis safeguarding operations manager, to develop a leaflet explaining the new MVM process in a young person friendly way.</p> <p>This was raised again with the participation worker who will work alongside the CICC to develop this.</p>
It was disappointing that East Sussex were not holding an awards ceremony in person this year, especially as other counties were managing to do this.	You raised this with virtual school and SMT who have advised that they hope to do this next year.
The rucksack project should continue into 2022/2023	We still have funding to ensure this will continue throughout 2022/2023
You were keen to develop the buddy scheme but had some questions about expectations and commitment	4 members attended 12 hours of buddy training. We now have 2 active matched buddies
You were anxious about starting a new school in which you would have to board during the week	CICC members currently attending this school offered to meet with the young person to talk about any worries they had.
Too many young people were still reporting, meetings are being held in school time and that this was a broken pledge promise.	You raised this with the IRO team, SMT and the Virtual School. Designated teachers will be reminded about this and statistics are being reviewed.
You want to ensure all children cared for by East Sussex know about CICC and can contact us if needed. You are also keen to reinforce positive messages and share experiences.	A newsletter was produced in the summer and posted to all cared for young people age 8+ including those who are placed out of county and in agency placements.

It has been my pleasure to run this Children in care council. They are an amazing group of young people, and I am immensely proud watching them grow in confidence each year.

They give up their time completely voluntarily to help shape the service and make things better for those coming into care and for those currently being cared for.

They often work outside of the monthly meetings to carry out their role and juggle this with schoolwork, part time employment and social lives.

The CICC are committed to continue with their invaluable work next year and will enjoy taking forward collaborative work with other CICC's and youth voice groups both locally and nationally once again.

Some of our 'You said, We did' statements are still at the 'We will' stage and therefore this will be monitored and developed further.

We will also be actively recruiting new CICC members to replace those who are leaving us, whilst keeping the group as diverse as possible.

We wish all members of the CICC well and thank them for their valued service to all cared for children and young people in East Sussex.

Meshelle Carmody

CICC Coordinator

April 2022

Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>29 April 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>

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<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the report.</b>
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## **1. Background and supporting information**

- 1.1 Services for LAC are predominantly funded from the Children's Services base budget with some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity e.g., 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 the past quarter has seen a slight increase in numbers of children and on the last day of March 2022 there were 627 children in care, up from 620 in December 2021. The service remains extremely busy as children come in and placements for existing children disrupt and they need to be moved, with continued and increasing difficulty in the supply of external agency placements when in-house capacity is full.
- 1.3 A total of 358 children were in foster care at the end of March, a rise of 14 over the quarter, with 268 living with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) carers and a further 90 children living with agency carers. In addition, we have 63 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels, a decrease of 10 over the quarter. 16 children were placed for adoption, 7 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 the number of children with kinship foster carers stood at 90.
- 1.5 The number of children living at home with their parents whilst remaining subject to a legal order to ESCC stood at 23. 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 March, the number of children living in residential children's homes has remained stable at 63. Our 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 finished and a formal opening event was held in February 2022. Ofsted registration is being completed in April 2022 and, subject to successful registration, it is intended that children will be able to be placed at the home by the end of the month.
- 1.7 At the end of March one ESCC child was placed in the secure unit at Lansdowne. Exit planning is underway for this child and it is hoped that they will be able to move to residential provision shortly. One ESCC child left secure this quarter following significant work by Children's Services staff and the agency provider and with Ofsted to complete the registration of the home in time for their move.

- 1.8 Two young people were remanded into youth detention accommodation in this quarter.
- 1.9 ESCC is fully participating in the national transfer scheme in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The numbers of young people seeking asylum rose to 62 at the end of March, up two 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. The total number of asylum-seeking young people being supported as care leavers was 95 at the end of March.
- 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 decreased by four to 470.
- 1.11 Once again there were no complaints from a LAC in the last quarter.

## **2. Conclusion**

- 2.1 Pressure on the system continues, driven by complexity and costs for children and by the context of Covid-19 which is making placements locally and nationally very scarce.
- 2.2 There have been no complaints from a child in the care of ESCC in the last quarter.

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

**Contact:**

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# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022

Placement Type	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
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	3	3	3	1	1
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	6	6	5	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	3	3
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	18	18	18	15	15	14	15	15	13	14	12	12
H5 - Residential accommodation	57	56	61	61	59	61	57	61	60	59	56	63
K1 - Secure unit	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	73	73	75	75	75	78	75	72	73	72	74	73
P1 - Placed with own parents	21	26	30	27	32	29	30	23	20	21	26	23
P2 - Independent living	6	5	4	5	4	4	2	2	2	1		
R1 - Residential care home	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
R2 - NHS/Health Trust			1	1					1			
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison	1							2	1	1	2	2
S1 - All Residential schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U0 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	10	10	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	53	57	55	60	60	71	71	72	77	76	74	81
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	186	184	183	178	177	173	171	171	169	167	160	158
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA					1	1	3	8	6	6	6	7
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	173	168	175	176	170	169	173	174	175	183	188	193
Total	611	610	624	617	612	618	613	616	614	618	613	627

Immigration Status	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Asylum Seeker	4	2				1	1	1		1	1	1
British Citizen	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Humanitarian Protection applied for under ECHR	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	21	21	21	21	21	19	18	16	12	11	11
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	18	21	24	30	32	33	35	36	39	38	39	46

Legal Status	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	342	341	341	343	343	343	343	343	343	342	342	342
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	453	457	457	459	460	460	462	466	467	467	469	470

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