



CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 2023

10.00 AM COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, LEWES

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

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 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. 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. Quarterly Registered Children's Homes Report (*Pages 7 - 44*)

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

8. Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics (*Pages 45 - 50*)

Report by Director of Children's Services.

9. Lansdowne Secure Unit-temporary closure and forward plan (*Pages 51 - 52*)

10. Placement Sufficiency-National Context

Presentation by Children's Services Department.

11. East Sussex Sufficiency Strategy presentation

Presentation by Children's Services Department.

12. Key priorities in relation to care and placements from our children and young people
Verbal report.
13. Foster Carers Association reflections on demand, current challenges and opportunities
Verbal report.
14. Discussion-Corporate Parenting Panel Response to Sufficiency Challenges and proposals
Verbal update and discussion.
15. Any other non-exempt items considered urgent by the Chair.

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

12 January 2023

Contact
Belinda Trunfull - 01273 335230

Email: belinda.trunfull@eastsussex.gov.uk

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 28 October 2022.

PRESENT

Councillor Sam Adeniji, Councillor Bob Bowdler, Kathryn Field (Chair) and Councillor Sorrell Marlow-Eastwood.

ALSO PRESENT

Kathy Marriott – Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care

Teresa Lavelle-Hill – Head of Looked After Children Services

Nicola Scott – Operations Manager, Residential LAC Services

Sally Hodson - Operations Manager, Children’s Disability Service, Residential and Directly Provided Services, ISEND

Mandy Lewes – Head of Virtual School

Ian Williams – Registered Home Manager

Georgina Seligmann – Governance and Democracy Manager

13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JULY 2022

13.1 RESOLVED to agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2022.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

14.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Matthew Milligan and Councillor Colin Swansborough.

15. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

15.1 There were none.

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 6 and 7 on the agenda (see minutes 18 and 19) 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. QUARTERLY REGISTERED CHILDREN'S HOMES REPORT

18.1 The Panel considered Quarterly Registered Children's Home reports for the following Children's Homes:

- Brodrick House
- Homefield Cottage
- Hazel Lodge
- Lansdowne Secure Children's Home
- Acorns
- The Bungalow

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

- Silver Birches
- Lansdowne Secure Children's Home

18.3 The Panel welcomed the reports and received a verbal update from the Operational Managers. The Panel were satisfied that the Home Managers had appropriate action plans in place to address the recommendations within the reports.

18.4 The Panel RESOLVED to note the report.

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

19.1 There were none.

20. VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

20.1 The Panel received the Virtual School Annual Report. Mandy Lewis Head of Virtual School drew the Panel's attention to the following points:

- The Service has experienced an increase in numbers, 465 at times, and remains involved with recent care leavers to ensure they have an appropriate placement. The average case load for staff is now 80 – 100.
- Funding – staffing and training and transport, key to keep the children at their existing school if they move area, working closely with other services to ensure all children are supported.
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) twice a year and vital to planning and support of those young people. IEPs should be robust and high quality, auditing work in train to ensure there is a strategy in place to improve the quality.

Data (2019 formal comparison point):

- KS1 results were very positive and higher than national average
- KS2 Reading expected levels risen to 44% and are nationally in line for Maths and Writing, the progress score is really high for these children
- KS4 Level 5 4.2% - 16% 2022 Level 4 from 8.1% 2019 – 27% 2022 with a 9 for PE for one pupil

- Exclusions and FTEs high but working together to challenge those outcomes to find alternatives to suspension, there have been no permanent exclusions
- 93% attendance so in line with average but persistent absence lower, high profile matter across East Sussex schools
- 75% met all learning targets, all children met at least one target

Further points raised:

- Developing relationship with main providers of Alternative Provision, mainly children on part time timetables, supporting them to re-engage and build their self-esteem
- Children in Need review advised focus on outcomes for children with a social worker, better tracking, strategic responsibility, consultation period concluded and action plan devised, advice being provided to social workers alongside this
- Pilot for post 16 funding project last year, continuing for this year too, enabled offer of teaching to post 16s in college, asylum seekers can access this training
- The Panel noted the discussion with the Children in Care Council about how they would like to be managed in school, extension of duties and Post 16 pilot
- The Panel acknowledged the work undertaken in reducing fixed term exclusions

20.2 The Panel RESOLVED to note the report.

21. LOOK AFTER CHILDREN'S (LAC) ANNUAL REPORT

21.1 The Panel received the Annual Looked After Children Report. Sally Carnie, Head of LAC Services drew the Panel's attention to the following points:

- Delays in court have contributed to drop in Adoption levels. There are complex cases for the current LAC group and it can be challenging to place these children as a result. The Service prefer to achieve adoption even if this means there is a delay as it ambitious for the children
- The Service remains ambitious for the provision of the mental health services for LAC children
- School attendance and missing students are not necessarily representative of an unsuccessful placement however support to families when child put onto a part time placement can impact the viability of the placement if support is not in place
- Alternative provision is always sought
- Structured service to oversee County Lines strategy so as to identify those at risk and then a multi-agency plan implemented to reduce the risk, some children are drawn into it

21.2 The Panel RESOLVED to note the report and requested that the following information is included in future reports:

- LAC leavers now working at or with East Sussex County Council; and
- further breakdown of data for unaccompanied children in East Sussex

22. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) STATISTICS

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

22.2 Kathy Marriott, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care updated the Panel on the latest position for Looked After Children in East Sussex. During the last quarter, a total of 630 children were living in care, a slight fall from the last quarter. Of this total 352 children are in Foster Care, a slight decrease, with high levels remaining within in house provision; 88 in kinship care (a slight increase), 19 placed for adoption, 70 in supported housing (static) 77 children in homes.

22.3 2 children are in a secure unit with 1 child placed in an external secure unit. There are no children remanded into custody. There are 65 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. There has been an increase in care leavers (children over 18 years old). Special Guardianship orders have increased to 478.

22.4 It has been a challenging quarter with number a of complex cases and ability to find placements for them. From 2021 it's illegal to place a child with an unregistered placement, there is 1 case therefore an update will be provided to the panel on this in future.

22.5 The Panel RESOLVED to note the report and agreed that an update on changes to the law and data provision will be brought to the next meeting.

23. PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED NEW APPROACH TO CORPORATE PANEL PARENTING (CPP)

23.1 The Panel received a presentation from Kathy Marriot, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care outlining the suggested revised approach to the Corporate Parenting Panel

23.2 The Panel discussed the recommendations and was in favour of some revisions to the format of future meetings and for the following options to be considered:

- Each meeting will have an overriding theme and report authors will draw out key data from the standing reports
- Officers and key partners will be invited to attend future meetings to ensure the Panel hears directly from relevant stakeholders
- The Panel will have sight of the report for the national panel

23.3 It was agreed that a revised format and thematic approach will be agreed ahead of the next meeting.

23.4 The Panel RESOLVED to adopt the new approach as recommended from the next meeting on 20 January 2023.

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

24.1 There were none.

The meeting ended at 12:14pm.

Councillor Kathryn Field
Chair

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date of meeting:	20 January 2023
Title of Report:	Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics
By:	Director of Children's Services
Purpose of Report:	To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter

RECOMMENDATION:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to discuss and consider the report.

1. Background information

Financial Appraisal

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 e.g. funding for unaccompanied asylum seeking children from the Home Office Grant. The increase in LAC, pressures across the national system and pricing of placements are leading to budget pressures in this area.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Data is drawn as a snapshot on the last day of the month and inevitably there will be some changes as data is cleansed. There has been an increase of 24 in the number of Looked After Children during the last quarter and on the last day of December 2022, there were 654 children in care. The service remains very busy and the sufficiency of any placements either in-house, or in the independent sector, is extremely challenging. This is a reflection of a national issue across the UK.

2.2 A total of 358 children were living in foster care at the end of December: an increase of 6 since the last quarter. Of that number, 268 were living with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) carers. This includes 7 children were placed with foster carers who were also approved as adopters which is part of the Fostering for Adoption pathway. A further 90 children were living with agency carers. In addition, 83 young people were living in supported housing options, homes or hostels, which is an increase of 13 since the previous quarter. A further 19 children were placed for adoption.

2.3 At the end of the quarter 79 children were living with kinship foster carers. This figure has decreased by 9 since the previous period.

2.4 The number of children living at home with their parents whilst remaining subject to a legal order to ESCC has increased by 7 to 28. Planning for placements of this nature is monitored rigorously to mitigate any risk factors. Agreement and authorisation for this type of placement is given at a senior level unless it is court mandated.

2.5 At the end of December, the number of children living in residential children's homes increased from 77 to 85. Of that figure, 20 children were living in ESCC children's homes which is an increase of 2 on the previous quarter and 65 were placed in agency residential children's homes which is an increase of 6. Our staff work strenuously to place children in our in-house provision before they seek agreement from a senior manager for an agency placement. Robust negotiations on both quality and price are a feature of every external placement search. An

additional ESCC children's home has now been registered which has increased placement capacity.

- 2.6 At the end of December we had 2 ESCC children placed in the Secure Unit at Lansdowne and 1 further child was placed in an external secure unit. Early exit planning is currently underway for all 3 children.
- 2.7 There were no children remanded into youth detention accommodation in this quarter.
- 2.8. ESCC is fully participating in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). The number of asylum-seeking young people who were looked after at the end of December was 77. In addition, there were 104 asylum seeking young people who were Care Leavers during this period.
- 2.9 During this period, hotels were commissioned by the Home Office as part of the adult contingency planning (dispersal accommodation). This increased the overall number of such hotels in East Sussex. 40 young people who had previously been assessed as adults by the Home Office when they arrived, presented themselves as children and have been subject to age assessment during this period. An additional hotel was commissioned by the Home Office in East Sussex, to accommodate UASC awaiting placements through the NTS. This has placed significant pressure on the specialist UASC team, local services and accommodation.
- 2.10 The number of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders has increased by 1 to 341 and those children subject to a Special Guardianship Order has decreased by 1 to 478.
- 2.11 There were 2 complaints from looked after children during this period. Both have been responded to in a timely manner. 1 has been satisfactorily resolved and the other is progressing.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The overall increase in looked after children during this quarter has comprised of children presenting with very complex and challenging behaviours, alongside the significant increase in UASC (through the Home Office hotels for adults). This accounts for the increase of children placed in any residential care setting, and the higher number of children placed in supported housing options, homes or hostels. This has significantly increased the pressure in the Looked After Children's system during this period, which is compounded with the national shortage of care placements. A revised sufficiency statement has been completed and will be presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

ALISON JEFFERY
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Kathy Marriott
Tel. No. 07517 466 601
Email: kathy.marriott@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2022 and 31/12/2022

Placement Type	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	13	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13
H5 - Residential accommodation	59	56	61	63	64	70	70	63	69	72	89	83
K1 - Secure unit	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	72	74	73	75	77	77	76	77	76	81	81	83
P1 - Placed with own parents	21	26	22	22	23	23	22	20	20	22	27	28
P2 - Independent living	1											
R2 - NHS/Health Trust								1	1	1		
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison		1	1	2	2	1					1	
S1 - All Residential schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	14	14	14

U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	73	68	73	74	72	72	76	78	72	70	65	65
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	167	160	157	154	149	146	142	141	135	134	130	128
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	182	186	202	200	201	202	205	210	210	210	219	223
Z1 - Other placements											1	
Total	612	604	623	623	623	629	630	629	623	632	657	654

Immigration Status	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Adult Asylum Seeker	5	5	8	8	8	8	8	8	5	5	4	
British Citizen	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Refugee Status	21	20	20	19	18	18	17	15	16	14	11	9
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	25	26	30	33	33	35	34	37	40	45	62	63

Legal Status	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	342	342	342	342	342	342	342	341	340	340	340	341
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	471	475	476	477	477	478	478	478	478	478	480	479

This page is intentionally left blank

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date of meeting:	20 January 2023
By:	Director of Children's Services
Title:	Briefing note on Lansdowne Secure Children's Home
Purpose:	To provide an update on the temporary closure and forward plan of Lansdowne Secure Children's Home

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to discuss and consider the content of the briefing

1 Background and supporting information

1.1 Since opening in May 2013, Lansdowne Secure Children's Home has provided vital care and support to a significant number of vulnerable children from across the UK. The original seven bed secure home was built with a £9 million grant from the Department of Education (DfE) and was further extended in 2021, through another £9million DfE grant to provide an additional 5 beds. The home is a regional and national resource with other local authorities paying for placements.

1.2 With the exception of a period in 2020-21 the home has consistently been judged 'Good' by Ofsted.

1.3 Like many sectors we have been experiencing significant difficulties recruiting and retaining staff, including managers, for some time and have therefore only been able to utilise a small proportion of the places in the unit. The absence of a registered manager from the end of January 2023 means that the county council has no choice but to temporarily close the home. Children's Services are therefore going to pause the service delivery at Lansdowne, review and redesign the staffing structure and develop an enhanced recruitment strategy so that we are able to deliver a resilient, viable and sustainable service in the future. A staff consultation is currently underway regarding temporary redeployment positions within Children's Services until the home reopens in the autumn of 2023.

1.4 The temporary closure has been discussed with the Department for Education, Ofsted and Trade Unions, who will be updated regularly regarding progress. Regular updates will be provided to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

2 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to discuss and consider this update.

ALISON JEFFERY
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Kathy Marriott
Tel. No. 07517 466 601
Email: kathy.marriott@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None