

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 13 December 2016

Report by: Director of Children's Services

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: The Cabinet is recommended to note the contents of the report

1. Background

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

1.2 The services for Looked After Children (LAC) are supported via core funding from the Children's Services Authority budget, a small proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium for additional education support for children

2. Supporting information

2.1 The performance data shows that good performance was at least maintained in most areas during 2015/16. There were some improvements in adoption timeliness, and notably in care leaver performance in relation to suitable accommodation and education employment and training (EET). But there was a dip in performance for NI63 (3 or more placement moves), nonetheless it remains below the national rate for 2014/15. The service worked with more children during the course of 2015/2016, and the churn rate was higher than for the previous year (179 2014/15, 185 2015/16). However this did not impact on the overall rate of LAC which remained unchanged. Educational outcomes for LAC continued to improve, especially at KS4.

2.2 This report was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel on the 14 October 2016. The Members noted the content and accepted the recommendations. Furthermore they commended the service for the consistently good service delivered. They noted that the LAC service performed consistently well during 2015/16, with a continued emphasis on the safe reduction of the number of LAC in the system and the delivery of efficiency savings following the end of both Thrive funding and of the Adoption Reform Grant.

2.3 There have been particular challenges this year as placement capacity reached saturation point in the South East. At times when no in-house placements were available, the placement team found the market unable to respond to the demand for placements of any kind, even in the independent sector. It will be imperative to continue to ensure that the right children are in the right placements for the right amount of time and that we secure the best outcomes possible within the available resources.

3. Recommendations and Reasons for them

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to note the contents of the report.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - LAC Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Listed within appendix 1 are the following annexes:

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

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

Annex 3 – Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report 2015 – 2016

Annex 4 – The Virtual School Annual Report including the use of Pupil Premium 2015-2016

Annex 5 - Missing People Annual Report

Annex 6 – LAC Mental Health Service Audit 2015 -16

1 Looked after Children Trend Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.7 In terms of UASC, at year end ESCC was caring for 17 children, mainly male and over 16. With an additional 11 having ongoing support needs as care leavers. These young people have usually arrived in a clandestine way via Newhaven or been

found elsewhere in East Sussex. During 2016-17 we have also assumed responsibility for 4 children placed by Kent within East Sussex and for a further 5 placed with ESCC via the national dispersal scheme. A number of young people have disappeared from care placements before age assessments can be completed to determine whether they are indeed children.

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

with foster carers	440	(433)
of these: in house carers	313	(305)
kinship carers	37	(34)
agency carers	90	(94)
placed for adoption	31	(43)
in supported lodgings	7	(6)
in ESCC children's homes	18	(21)
in agency children's homes	26	(21)
in agency special schools	1	(5)
placed with own parents	16	(11)
youth custody/secure unit	5	(5)
Hospital/NHS establishment	0	(0)

2. Fostering

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

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

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

Please see Annex 1 for full Fostering Service Annual Report 2015-16.

3. Physical and Mental Health

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

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

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

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

For a more detailed quantitative and qualitative analysis see Annex 6 LAC Mental Health Service Audit 2015 -16, LAC in Fostering and Residential.

4. Adoption and Permanence

4.1

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
1. Number of Children Adopted	16	44	57	43	45
2. Number of Adoption Matches (children)	41	53	50	56	32
3. Number of Permanent Fostering Matches (children)	26	10	10	7	10
4. Number of East Sussex Adoptive Matches (children)	28	44	40	33	26
5. Number of Consortium Adoptive Matches (children)	2	1	1	6	0
6. Number of Inter-Agency Matches (children):					
Permanence:	10	2	4	3	2
Adoption:	11	8	9	17	6
7. Number of Prospective Adopters Approved (households) *	21	39	44	50	41
8. Number of Permanent Carers Approved (households)	7	4	8	4	2
9. Number of Children Approved for Adoption up to 31 st March 2016	78	69	52	43	53
10. Number of children Approved for Permanence up to 31 st March 2016	33	17	24	26	14
11. Number of Approved Adopters waiting to be Matched	12	16	17	20	22
12. Number of Disruptions presented to Panel:					
Permanence:	1	1	1	0	0
Adoptions:	(during intros)				1

4.2 The number of children with a plan for adoption increased from 43 in 2014/15 to 53 in 2015/16. This scale of increase was not reflected nationally; indeed many Adoption Agencies reported that the number of approvals for adoption had significantly decreased in favour of Special Guardianship Orders. Locally however, the courts responded to a clear Government directive which suggested that adoption should continue to be promoted at the earliest opportunity as a realistic permanence option for young children. During 2015/16 28 children were matched with local adopters, with only 2 sibling pairs placed out of county giving a total of 32 children matched in the 12 month period. There was also a marked rise in the number of sibling groups with complex permanence plans, some of which involved adoption for

the younger children and permanent foster placement for the older children. Furthermore, the Adoption Scorecard issued by the Department for Education (DfE) evidenced that ESCC placed children for adoption more speedily than the national average, achieving placement in 223 days.

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

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

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

5. Residential Services

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

5.2 In April 2015, the DfE introduced revised Children Homes Regulations 2015 and new Quality Standards 2015. Simultaneously, Ofsted introduced a new framework for the inspection of children homes. From September 2015, 3 ESCC children's homes received an overall rating of "Requires Improvement" by Ofsted. A robust residential improvement plan was put in place and this, together with a challenging dialogue with Ofsted, resulted in these 3 group homes receiving "Improved Effectiveness" in the following interim inspections. This was the highest rating possible in an interim inspection. During 2015/16, a high proportion of young people with extremely complex and challenging needs were placed in the 3 group homes. At times, these

young people displayed risk taking behaviours which resulted in increased levels of physical and verbal abuse to both young people and staff. This in turn impacted on the service being able to maintain sufficient staffing levels in the homes due to either injury or stress. Vigorous efforts were made to recruit sufficient staff but it remained a challenge throughout the year. This was further compounded by Ofsted's expectations that all temporary and agency staff were required to have a QCF Level 3 qualification prior to being deployed. Additional management capacity was agreed and recruited to by year end to try and manage the service more robustly. Staff and managers worked closely with other professionals including colleagues from CAMHS, U19 Substance Misuse, Youth Offending Team, Missing People, WISE (What is Sexual Exploitation?), and the Virtual School.

6. Care Leavers Service

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

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

6.3 As of 31st March 2016 of LAC who were in continuous care for at least 12 months before sitting their GCSE examinations 89% of 16 – 17 year olds (year 12) were in education, training and employment (EET); 78% of 17 - 18 year olds (year 13) were EET. This cohort included care leavers who had significant learning disabilities and who were managed within the Transition Service. Of all eligible care leavers, 22% (24/107) were at University. This performance showed improvement in every measure.

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

7. Performance

7.1 The 2015/16 national data has not yet been published by the DfE, therefore this section does not benchmark the performance of ESCC against other local authorities and statistical neighbours. However, these data do show that good performance was at least maintained in most areas during 2015/16. There were some improvements in adoption timeliness, and notably in care leaver performance in relation to suitable accommodation and EET. But there was a dip in performance for NI63 (3 or more placement moves), nonetheless it remains below the national rate for 2014/15. The evidence in section 1, which demonstrated increased numbers of LAC worked with during the year did not impact on the overall rate of LAC which remained unchanged. Educational outcomes for LAC continued to improve overall, especially at KS4. Good progress was supported by additional home tuition funded through Pupil Premium. For overall performance of LAC educational outcomes in 2014 please see The Virtual School Annual Report 16th October 2015 Annex 4 and Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report in Annex 3.

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

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
NI 58	Emotional & Behavioural Health of children in care	13.4 ↑	15.4 ↓	13.9	15.1 ↓	13.9	14.3 ↑	14.0
Adoption Scorecard 1	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted. (3 year average)	517 days ↑	520 days ↑	593 days	536 days ↑	628 days	538 days ↑	647 days
Adoption Scorecard 2	Average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match with an adoptive family (3 year average)	223 days ↓	190 days ↑	223 days	199 days ↓	217 days	168 days ↑	210 days
Adoption Scorecard 3	% of children who wait less than 16 months between entering care & moving in with their adoptive family (3 year average)	59% ↑	57% ↑	47%	54% ↑	51%	53% ↓	49%

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
NI62 Placements 1	Number of children looked after with 3 or more placements during the year	10.8% ↓	9.7% ↓	10.0%	8.9% ↑	10.9%	12.4% ↓	11.3%
NI63 Placements 2	% of LAC under 16 who've been lac for 2.5 years or more & in the same placement for 2 years or placed for adoption	64.0% ↔	64.0% ↑	68.0%	57.4% ↓	66.5%	57.5% ↓	66.8%
Placements 3	% of LAC at 31 st March placed outside LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live	9.4% ↑	10.0% ↓	12.5%	8.7% ↑	12.2%	9.2% ↑	12.2%
Leaving Care 2 <i>* see note below</i>	% of former relevant young people aged 17-21 who were in education, employment or training	62.4% ↑	52.6% ↓	47.8%	55.0%	45.0%	n/a	n/a
Leaving Care 3	% of former relevant young people aged 17-21 who were in suitable accommodation	81.7% ↑	74.3% ↓	80.7%	85.3%	77.6%	n/a	n/a
Thrive PI 9	Rate of Children looked after per 10,000 population aged under 18	51.7 ↔	51.7 ↑	60.0	54.5 ↑	60.0	57.3 ↑	59.8
PAF C19	Average of the % of children looked after who had been looked after continuously for at least 12 months who had an annual assessment and their teeth checked by a dentist during the previous 12	92.8% ↑	92.6% ↓	87.7%	93.5% ↑	86.4%	89.9% ↓	84.7%

Indicator Ref	Description	2015/16 Value	2014/15 Value	2014/15 Eng	2013/14 Value	2013/14 Eng	2012/13 Value	2012/13 Eng
	months.							
PAF C81	Final warnings, reprimands and convictions of lac	3.8% ↔	3.8% ↓	5.2%	1.8% ↑	5.6%	5.7% ↑	6.2%

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

8. The Virtual School

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

For further information on the work of the Virtual School see The Virtual School Annual Report (Annex 4)

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

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

- Pathways for advice and referral
- Assessing risk
- Safety planning for children
- Understanding barriers to disclosure for children vulnerable to or experiencing CSE
- Identifying perpetrators
- Proactive use of legislation
- Additional vulnerabilities for Looked After Children
- Services and ongoing support for victims and their families (including witness support)

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

9.3 Locally the Return Home Interview (RHI) service was commissioned from the national charity, Missing People. In April 2016 this was extended to incorporate all the Sussex authorities via a three year contract. The commissioning process and contract management was led by ESCC. Missing People provide quarterly reports and the end of year report was scrutinised by the LSCB on the 28 April 2016. The

primary focus was to capture all RHI data required for inspection and statutory returns. It is hoped that this will reduce the risks of our most vulnerable children by enabling strategies to be developed in a timely manner.

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

9.5 Of the 40 LAC who went missing, 19 were female and 21 male, and 18 were aged 16 and above. The data suggested that out of the total missing LAC cohort, 31 episodes were recorded where risk of sexual exploitation was a significant factor. For further information on the data see Annex 5, the Missing People Annual Report.

10. Inspections

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

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

11. Corporate Parenting Panel

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

April 2015:

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

- The Bungalow, Sorrel Drive

10 July 2015:

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

16 October 2015:

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

29 January 2016:

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

12. Conclusion

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

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