

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **27 January 2017**
Title of Report: **Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter**

Recommendation:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the report.

1. Background information

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

2. Supporting information

2.1 At the end of December 2016, there were 15 more children overall bringing ESCC to a total of 567 LAC. A total of 396 children were in foster care with 67 of those children in agency placements, a decrease of 4 over the quarter. 23 children were placed for adoption. 6 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters.

2.3 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 40, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge. It is noteworthy that 3 of the children placed in the previous quarter at the direction of the Court have now been removed again.

2.4 24 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, an increase of 8. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and agreement to begin or end a placement with parents is given at a senior level.

2.5 At the end of the quarter 19 children were placed in agency residential placements, a decrease of 2 placements.

2.6 At the end of the quarter 3 children were still secured via a welfare route, one in the context of risk of CSE, one in the context of dangerous substance misuse and the final child still secured due to extremely challenging behaviour in response to trauma within her birth family. All were in Lansdowne at the end of December.

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

2.8 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has increased by 5. ESCC has continued to accept young people via the dispersal scheme, prioritising young people already physically in placement in East Sussex.

2.9 There were still 321 children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders and 400 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 13.

2.10 During Q3 of 2016/17 two complaints were received from Looked After Children:

- One was from a young person at Brodrick Road who was complaining that the power sockets were being turned off at 22:00, preventing her from charging her phone which she used as a Wi-Fi hotspot for her tablet. An explanation of why the power was being isolated was provided (safeguarding concern for another resident) and an apology offered for the inconvenience. The decision was reviewed and it was agreed that power would only be isolated in the future if there were serious safeguarding concerns.
- The second complaint was from a young person at Homefield Cottages who disclosed to a social worker that a member of Homefield staff had called her a “selfish cow”. The young person was met with and the complaint discussed. It transpired that she could not actually remember who may or may not have made the comment, and that it may actually have been another young person rather than a staff member. The young person was reminded that she could speak to a manager in the future if she had concerns about a staff member using inappropriate language and that there is an expectation that young people should also treat staff with respect.

2.11 This is a low number of complaints and a reduction on the previous quarter. Both complaints have been investigated fully and are resolved.

3. Conclusion

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

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

STUART GALLIMORE
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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2016

Placement Type	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	5	5	5	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	8	7	7	3	4	7	8	8	12	12	12	12
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer										1	1	
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	14	19	17	11	10	9	7	7	7	4	5	5
H5 - Residential accommodation	9	7	6	5	6	6	5	4	4	4	4	5
K1 - Secure unit	2	2	3	3	2	3	5	4	2	3	3	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	40	40	39	41	42	38	40	42	50	50	51	50
P1 - Placed with own parents	22	17	16	17	17	14	15	14	16	19	22	24
P2 - Independent living	2	1	1	2	4	9	10	13	19	18	18	17
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	1										1	1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison	1	1	2	1	1	1					2	2
S1 - All Residential schools	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	13	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10	10	9	9
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	31	28	27	26	25	22	28	32	34	33	34	31
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	182	181	172	168	168	163	159	153	150	144	141	142
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	3	3	4	5	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	6
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	201	210	223	228	227	225	230	239	234	239	253	254
Z1 - Other placements								1	1	1		
Total	539	537	539	530	531	522	532	542	552	550	569	567

Immigration Status	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	6
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	12	14	14	12	12	10	11	15	17	17	17	17

Legal Status	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	309	307	315	316	317	318	320	321	321	323	321	321
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	360	366	369	372	375	384	384	387	391	396	400	400