

Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>28<sup>th</sup> April 2017</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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## **Recommendations:**

**The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the report.**

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

1.1 At the end of March 2017 there were three fewer children overall, bringing East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to a total of 564 Looked After Children (LAC). A total of 403 children were in foster care with 64 of those children in agency placements, a decrease of three over the quarter. 21 children were placed for adoption. Four children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters.

1.2 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 37, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

1.3 22 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, a decrease of 2. 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.

1.4 At the end of the quarter 15 children were placed in agency residential placements, a decrease of four placements.

1.5 At the end of the quarter the same three children had remained secured throughout the quarter 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 March and exit planning is underway for all three, although locating suitable placements has been extremely challenging.

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

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

1.8 There were still 327 children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders and 409 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of nine.

1.9 During Q4 of 2016/17 two complaints were received from Looked After Children:

- One was from a young person at Brodrick House who was complaining that a member of staff had removed biscuits from her room whilst cleaning. This was resolved by the RHM meeting with the young person and then writing to confirm that the cleaning was being done as the young person persistently failed to keep her room in a reasonable state. The biscuits were removed due to concerns about the young person's health. Advice was given on healthy living and exercise to ensure the young person's weight was managed appropriately. The complaint was not upheld.
- The second complaint was from a young person at Hazel Lodge who was complaining about another young person and not feeling comfortable or safe around him. The complaint

was resolved following a meeting with the RHM and a letter to the young person which confirmed that the concern about the behaviour of the other young person would be discussed with staff and steps taken to ensure his conduct did not impact on the complainant. A commitment was given to ensuring that the young person felt safe and at home at Hazel Lodge and a copy of the letter was shared with the young person's social worker. The complaint was upheld.

1.10 This is a low number of complaints and numbers have remained steady compared to the previous quarter. Both complaints have been investigated fully and are resolved.

1.11 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

## **2. Conclusion**

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

2.2 A small number of complaints have been received. Both have been investigated fully.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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Background documents:

None

## Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/07/2016 and 30/09/2016

Placement Type	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	3	3	3
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	7	7	8
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	9	9	9
H5 - Residential accommodation	5	4	4
K1 - Secure unit	5	4	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	41	43	47
P1 - Placed with own parents	14	14	16
P2 - Independent living	3	2	4
S1 - All Residential schools	6	6	6
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	10
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	28	32	33
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	159	153	152
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	6	6	5
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	234	244	246
Z1 - Other placements	7	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>555</b>

Immigration Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	11	15	16

Legal Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	320	321	321
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	382	385	387