

Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	28 July 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 comment on and note the contents of the report.

1. Background and supporting information

1.1 At the end of June 2017, there were 9 more children overall bringing East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to a total of 573 LAC. This is the highest number of children looking back over monthly data for the rolling year. A total of 410 children were in foster care with 68 of those children in agency placements, an increase of 4 over the quarter. 19 children were placed for adoption. 6 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

1.2 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 42, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

1.3 19 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, a decrease of 4. 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, 18 children were placed in agency residential placements, an increase of 3 placements.

1.5 At the end of the quarter, 3 children were secured via a welfare route. One young man had been readmitted in the context of dangerous substance misuse, one young woman who is almost 18 was secured after repeated episodes of challenging behaviour that put her at risk and the other child is still secured whilst she is supported to give evidence in a criminal trial against a family member. The young man is placed in Exeter because Lansdowne was full at the point of admission. The other two young people are both at Lansdowne. Exit planning is underway for all 3.

1.6 At the end of the period there were no LAC from ESCC remanded to criminal secure placements. Sadly 2 of our young people have been sentenced to custody over the quarter.

1.7 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has remained stable. ESCC has continued to accept steady number of young people via the dispersal scheme, prioritising young people already physically in placement in East Sussex.

1.8 There were still 329 children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders, a rise of 2 and 421 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 9.

1.9 During Q1 of 2017/18 one complaint was received from one of our Looked After Children at Lansdowne. She alleged that a member of staff had been 'disrespectful' to her. This was investigated by the manager and the complaint was upheld.

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

2. Conclusion

2.1 Numbers and costs for LAC have continued to rise and continued close oversight will be maintained.

2.2 Only one complaint has been received and has been investigated fully.

STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care Tel: 01273 481274

Local Members:

All

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/07/2016 and 30/06/2017

Background documents:

None

Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/07/2016 and 30/06/2017

Placement Type	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	12	13	19	18	19	18	14	15	14	14	14	14
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer				1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	7	7	7	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
H5 - Residential accommodation	5	4	7	8	10	9	7	8	11	11	13	17
K1 - Secure unit	5	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
K2 - Homes and Hostels	40	41	47	45	45	45	44	44	45	47	48	46
P1 - Placed with own parents	15	15	17	20	23	23	22	22	23	23	21	19
P2 - Independent living	10	13	18	16	15	14	13	13	9	7	4	2
R1 - Residential care home											1	
R2 - NHS/Health Trust					1	1	1	1	1	1		
R3 - Family centre or mother and baby unit		1	1	1								
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison					2	2	2	2	2	5	5	5
S1 - All Residential schools	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	10	10	9	9	9	11	11	11	11	11
U2 - Foster placement with relative or friend who is also an approved adopter- FFA						1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	28	32	34	33	34	36	34	34	31	34	31	31
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	159	153	150	144	141	142	141	137	134	132	130	129
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	5	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	228	237	230	236	249	248	256	256	265	267	272	281
Total	531	541	551	547	566	565	560	561	564	569	568	573

Immigration Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3
British Citizen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	11	15	18	19	22	22	21	24	24	25	24	23

Legal Status	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	320	321	321	323	321	321	322	325	327	327	328	329
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	384	387	391	396	400	400	405	407	412	414	420	421