

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**  
Date: **27 October 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**

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***RECOMMENDATION:***

**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 September 2017, there were 14 more Looked After Children overall bringing East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to a total of 579. This demonstrates a continuing and steadily rising trend. A total of 413 children were in foster care with 71 of those children in agency placements, an increase of 3 over the quarter. 16 children were placed for adoption. 9 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway. Several babies have been placed via this route in the context of repeated legal challenges to 'final' Placement Orders. This is to avoid delay in permanence planning for very young children. However using this methodology places continued financial demand on an already stretched budget.

1.2 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 48, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

1.3 20 children subject to a Care Order were placed at home with their parents, a rise of 1 over the quarter. 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, the same number, if not necessarily the same actual children, as at the end of the previous quarter.

1.5 At the end of the quarter 1 child was secured at Lansdowne, a young man secured in the context of substance misuse and involvement in a County Lines drugs ring.

1.6 At the end of the period there were no LAC from ESCC remanded to criminal secure placements. Sadly 1 of our young people has been sentenced to custody over the quarter.

1.7 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has decreased by 3. ESCC has temporarily paused transfer of young people via the dispersal scheme because of a current inability to allocate them to social work staff. We have obviously continued to assume responsibility for any young person who presents spontaneously e.g. via Newhaven. We would hope to be able to resume our part in the transfer system in the near future as Newly Qualified social workers join our teams.

1.8 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders have stayed stable at 329 and 431 children were subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 9.

1.9 During Q2 of 2017/18 1 complaint was received from one of our Looked After Children at Homefield who was struggling with the behaviour of another child in the home. This was investigated by the Operations Manager for the service who met with her on two occasions 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**

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None



U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	33	33	35	33	33	29	32	29	29	30	38	37
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	144	140	141	140	136	133	131	129	127	122	119	118
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	6	6	9	9
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	236	248	247	255	254	261	261	266	276	286	291	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>579</b>
<b>Immigration Status</b>	<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>Jun 17</b>	<b>Jul 17</b>	<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Sep 17</b>
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
British Citizen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	19	22	22	21	24	24	25	24	23	21	21	20
<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>Jun 17</b>	<b>Jul 17</b>	<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Sep 17</b>
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	323	321	321	322	325	327	327	328	329	329	330	329
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	396	401	401	406	408	413	415	421	422	424	429	431