

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**
Date: **27 April 2018**
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 report.**

1. Background and supporting information

1.1 The past quarter has seen a steady rise in overall numbers of children and at the end of March there were 44 more Looked After Children (LAC) in total, bringing East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to 606. Work is ongoing to drill down into the underlying reasons. Despite this the rate per 10,000 for LA children remains at 57.2, below the IDACI expected rate of 59. A total of 425 children were in foster care with 77 of those children in agency placements, a rise of 9 over the quarter. In addition we have 52 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels. 20 children were placed for adoption. 9 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 48, some of whom have been placed at the direction of a judge.

1.3 The number of children placed at home with their parents whilst subject to a Care Order has remained stable at 21. 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. Some children remain placed with parents on interim orders during ongoing legal proceedings.

1.4 At the end of the quarter 27 children were placed in agency residential placements, a rise of 2 over the quarter.

1.5 At the end of the quarter 1 ESCC child remained secured at Lansdowne, a young woman whose behaviour is very troubled following prolonged and serious sexual abuse within her birth family. She will leave Lansdowne by June as her Secure Order will expire and so exit planning is in place.

1.6 At the end of the period, 2 young people who were previously LAC were remanded to custody for serious criminal offences. However a further 8 young people had attained LAC status by virtue of being remanded.

1.7 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has again decreased by 3. ESCC has continued to accept transfer of young people via the dispersal scheme but as far as possible young people already placed in or close to East Sussex are being prioritised.

1.8 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders has risen by 2 to 330 and 435 children were subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 3.

1.9 During Q4 of 2017/18 4 complaints were received from our Looked After Children, with 3 from the same young person. All related to their experience in residential care.

The 3 complaints from Young Person 1 who is a resident of a children's home were about:

1. The behaviour of other young people in the home
2. Being called names by another young person in the home

3. Another complaint about the same young person's poor behaviour in the children's home. This complaint was about nuisance rather than anything directed against the complainant young person.

1.10 The complaints were taken seriously and resolved by a meeting and letters were sent to the young person detailing proposed actions to be taken. Advice was also given around age appropriate relationships and what actions she can take to ensure positive relationships with other young people in the home.

1.11 The second young person complained about an incident at another of our children's homes where there was a disagreement between the young person and a member of staff. The manager investigated and the complaint was partly upheld, albeit there was some aggressive behaviour from the young person which contributed to the incident. Advice has been given to the member of staff concerned to seek line manager assistance in similar situations in the future. The outcome of the complaint was confirmed in writing to the young person.

1.12 Services for LAC are predominantly funded from the Children's Services base budget with some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity e.g. the Virtual School from the Pupil Premium Grant.

2. Conclusion

2.1 Numbers and costs for LAC have continued to rise and continued close oversight will be maintained. In addition further work is underway to drill down into the reasons behind the increase.

2.2 4 complaints have been received, investigated fully and resolved.

STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/04/2017 and 31/03/2018

Placement Type	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	19	18	19	18	16	16	11	8	6	6	6	6
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	5	5	4	3	4	6	7	7	7	9	11	8
H5 - Residential accommodation	11	13	15	16	17	17	21	20	18	16	24	25
K1 - Secure unit	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	47	48	46	47	45	44	46	46	47	49	50	48
P1 - Placed with own parents	22	20	18	18	20	20	20	21	21	20	20	21
P2 - Independent living	7	4	2	2	4	4	5	6	5	5	5	4
R1 - Residential care home		1										
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	1					1	1	2	2	1	2	1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison	5	5	5	3	2	1	1	4	4	3	4	3
S1 - All Residential schools	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	13	13	13	13	12	11	11	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	1	1	1	1	1
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	31	28	28	29	36	35	32	34	31	38	35	36
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	133	131	129	124	121	120	118	116	117	116	114	114
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	1	2	3	3	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	9
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	251	256	265	275	278	281	284	278	279	289	294	311
Total	558	555	559	562	570	572	572	568	565	580	593	606
Immigration Status	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
Asylum Seeker	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
British Citizen	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	25	25	24	22	22	21	22	21	22	20	20	18
Legal Status	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	326	327	328	328	329	328	328	328	328	328	328	330
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	415	421	422	424	429	431	431	432	432	432	434	435