

Committee:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	26 October 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 continued to see sustained pressure on the system and at the end of September, ESCC had 620 children in care, a rise of 18 over the quarter. The rate in East Sussex is now 58.5, only just below the IDACI expected rate of 59 (which would equate to 625 children).

1.2 A total of 430 children were in foster care at the end of September, with 85 of those children in agency placements the same number as at the end of quarter 1. In addition we have 46 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels. 20 children were placed for adoption. 5 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

1.3 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 57, some of whom have been placed with family members at the direction of a judge or have remained at home during proceedings, again at the direction of a judge.

1.4 The number of children placed at home with their parents whilst subject to a final legal order has risen by 1 to 19. 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.

1.5 At the end of the quarter 34 children were placed in agency residential placements, a rise of 1 over the period. Staff continue to make every effort to place children in house and to negotiate costs with the agency where this is not possible.

1.6 At the end of the quarter 1 ESCC child remained secured at Lansdowne; a young man with a significant health issue, exacerbated by chaotic substance misuse. His exit plan is in place.

1.7 We have had no new remands to custody during this quarter and, at the end of September, there were no young people still on remand and awaiting sentencing.

1.8 Overall the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has seen a slight increase due to a combination of transfers of young people via the dispersal scheme and spontaneous arrivals in the County.

1.9 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders has stayed stable at 334 and 442 children were subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 2 over the quarter.

1.10 During Q2 no complaints were received from our LAC.

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

some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity eg Virtual School activity from the Pupil Premium Grant.

2. Conclusion

2.1 Pressure on the system continues, driven by the numbers of and costs for children. Continued close oversight will be maintained.

2.2 No complaints were received from our LAC in this quarter.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/10/2017 and 30/09/2018

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/10/2017 and 30/09/2018

Placement Type	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	1	1	2	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	12	9	7	7	7	7	5	5	5	4	4	4
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	5	5
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	8	8	8	10	13	13	14	13	13	12	10	10
H5 - Residential accommodation	21	20	18	16	24	25	28	26	31	30	37	34
K1 - Secure unit	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	46	46	47	49	50	50	49	49	48	49	48	46
P1 - Placed with own parents	20	20	20	19	19	21	21	21	18	20	20	19
P2 - Independent living	5	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	2	3	2
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison	1	4	4	3	5	4	2	2				
S1 - All Residential schools	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	10	9	9	9	9
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	32	34	31	39	36	35	36	34	39	42	52	48
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	118	116	117	116	114	114	113	113	113	112	109	106
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	282	276	277	287	291	306	306	315	310	311	318	324
Total	571	566	562	576	590	605	603	606	602	607	628	620

Immigration Status	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
Asylum Seeker	1	1										
British Citizen	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
DLR to 18th Birthday, extension applied for	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Exceptional Leave to Remain in the UK (ELR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	1											
Refugee Status	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	17	16	16	14	14	13	14	16	12	12	18	17

Legal Status	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	331	331	331	331	331	333	333	333	334	333	334	334
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	432	433	433	433	436	437	438	438	439	441	442	442